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Volume 70, Issue 39 · www.wilcoxnewspapers.com Thursday, March 27, 2025

Autism program to move from OPS to home districts

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

For the past several years, Otsego Public Schools has served as host to a county-wide autism program.

However, that will change at the conclusion of the current school year.

Due to a space crunch faced by OPS, Level 3 autistic students will receive services at their home district beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Allegan Area Educational Service Agency superintendent Bill Brown stressed that, despite the location of services changing, the quality of service will remain high.

"The Allegan Area ESA remains committed to supporting students, families, and staff throughout this transition to ensure all students receive the services they need in an inclusive and supportive environment," said Brown. "The location of these services is what's changing, not the quality of service."

Otsego's Washington Street Elementary School currently hosts students from the county-wide Level 3 program. (Photo provided)

Allegan AESA runs the Level 3 program, which currently includes 17 students split between two elementary classrooms and one middle school classroom.

A rise in enrollment at OPS meant the district needed to repurpose the classrooms currently being used for the Level 3 program. Other districts in the county were contacted to gauge interest in becoming the new home for the program, but none were able to do so.

"No other constituent districts have the space to host the program, which is the reason OPS can no longer host," Brown said. "It is a space issue."

The teachers who work in the Level 3 program will be reassigned to districts throughout the county based on student need.

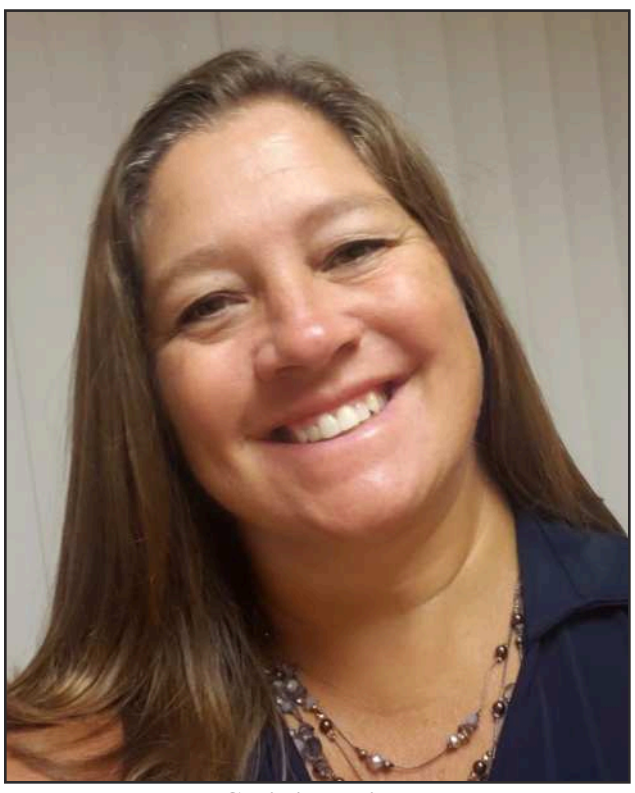
"They will be serving as coaches to help build the capacity of the teachers back in the local districts to support the students and meet their needs," Brown said.

The Level 3 students will continue to receive the services they need based on their individualized education program (IEP).

"Students need these services based upon the IEP, and their services will still be provided," Brown said. "We're meeting the needs of the students, just in a different way."

Level 3 autistic students are considered to be on the highest end of the autism spectrum.

According to the organization The Place for Children with Autism, Level 3 autistic children have "severe challenges in social communication as well as extremely inflexible behavior. Children with Level 3 autism will be nonverbal or have the use of only a few words of intelligible speech."



Christie Robinson

Matthew Webster

Rob Pouch

Otsego names three finalists for superintendent role

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

On Saturday, March 22, the Otsego School Board interviewed a pool of seven candidates for the district's soon-to-be vacant superintendent position.

That pool was narrowed to three finalists, who participated in a second round of interviews on Tuesday, March 25.

Selected to move forward were Morrice Area Schools superintendent Rob Pouch, Springport Public Schools superintendent Christie Robinson and Schoolcraft Community Schools assistant superintendent Matthew Webster.

The second round of interviews, like the first round, was held at the Otsego Middle School media center and were open to the public.

During the initial interviews, Otsego board members asked candidates questions on a wide range of topics, including their vision for Otsego Public Schools, communication style, management techniques, decision-making style and budget.

"Candidates offered opening and closing statements," the district said in a release. "There were several staff and community members present and they offered feedback on the candidates."

The Otsego board is expected to select a replacement for current superintendent Jeff Haase shortly after the second round of interviews is complete. The new superintendent is slated to begin in the district on July 1.

Haase, who is retiring after 11 years at OPS, will wrap up his tenure in June.

Here is a closer look at the three finalists for the OPS superintendent role:

* **Pouch** has been the superintendent at Morrice Area Schools since 2021. Prior to that, he had administrative experience as a principal at Linden community schools from 2012 to 2021 and as an assistant principal/athletic director at Fremont Public Schools from 2009 to 2013.

Pouch's teaching experience includes time at Fremont High School and Peck Jr./Sr. High School in physical education and social studies.

Resume excerpt: "Experienced and highly effective educational leader with a proven track record in successful district management, strategic planning, financial stability, policy implementation, and stakeholder communication. Proficient in driving positive systemic change, curriculum development, instructional systems, human resources, and cultivating strong relationships within educational communities."

* **Robinson** has served as superintendent at Springport Public Schools since 2021. From 2013 to 2021, she was a principal at Galesburg-Augusta Community Schools for the high school and alternative high school.

Robinson, who received her doctorate (educational leadership and management specialization) from Capella University in 2021, began her career in education as a teacher at Creston High School in 1994, teaching English there for one year. She moved to Allegan High School the following year, teaching science there until 2013.

Resume excerpt: "Innovative and relational leader with experience in developing and fostering the growth of staff and students. Exceptional skills in the following areas: • Instructional leadership • Organization • Emotional intelligence • Increasing rigor and closing achievement gaps • Transparency in communication and action • Identifying essential learning outcomes • Implementing district-wide initiatives • Grant writing and execution • Facilities assessment and bond campaign • Technology integration and implementation • Contract negotiations • Fiscal responsibility and goal setting • Planning and executing district-wide professional development • Building community relationships and outreach programs."

* **Webster** became assistant superintendent at Schoolcraft Community Schools in 2021. Previously, he was principal at Schoolcraft Elementary School from 2015 to 2024 and began his administrative career at Martin Elementary School (Huntley, Ill.) from 2011 to 2015.

Webster's teaching career began at Huntley Community Schools in Illinois in 2005, as he taught at elementary and middle school levels.

Webster is currently pursuing his doctorate in education leadership from Western Michigan University.

Resume excerpt: "A passionate educator since 2005, dedicated to cultivating a positive and supportive culture, Matt excels at envisioning future realities and developing innovative strategies to achieve them. With a keen ability to bring others together and foster collaborative relationships, he is committed to achieving results with participation and support of all stakeholders involved.

"With 19 years of dedicated leadership in K-12 education, Matt Webster brings a proven record of strategic planning, community engagement, and academic achievement. His expertise in collaborative leadership, passion for organizational growth, and belief in authentic learning experiences have led to previously unrealized student achievement rankings in each of the two districts he's served."

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Allegan Council receives awards for Tree City and Rural Water accomplishments

By Gari Voss

The Allegan City Council addressed a wide variety of items during their March 24, 2025, meeting. Public Works addressed road striping to winter 2025-2026 ice control and improvements on the riverfront. Finance shared updates on budgets and unpaid fees owed to the city. City leadership updated policies and procedures to align with new laws, and council members requested additional information regarding ongoing requests from the residents of Allegan. On the positive side, Council learned that Allegan was awarded the 2025 Michigan Rural Water Exemplary Efforts in Environmental Protection Award during the MRWA conference, and the Arbor Foundation gave Allegan a Tree City Award.

RENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAM

The agenda called for the second reading and Public Hearing of Zoning Ordinance 528 amending Chapter 7 – Building Regulations, Article II regarding the Rental Inspection Program. The amendment to the ordinance was to include language regarding who was responsible for paying the fees related to rental inspections. Since the March 10th meeting, City Manager Joel Dye and Mayor Traci Perrigo have had conversations with community members regarding the new wording of this ordinance amendment. During the Public Hearing, Ben Otis spoke to the idea that there may be better wording and a better method that would address the city's blight problem and the concerns of the residents of Allegan. In the end, a motion was passed to table Zoning Ordinance 528 until the new information being put forth to the Council could be considered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During Public Comment, a resident of Ryan Woods Condominium Association (Valley Township) brought concerns to the Council regarding Allen Edwin Builders that constructed 26 homes in their subdivision after acquiring the property from Macatawa Bank. Edwin Allen and Swan Management Co. did not follow protocol for responsibilities and basic development requirements including tree preservation and the destruction of roads by Allen Edwin's equipment. Her questions to the council focused on if anything will be put in place to ensure that Allen Edwin act better at developing the 500 Delano St. property than at Ryan Woods in Valley Township.

City Manager Dye did take a moment to direct the council to the fact that Allen Edwin would be required to follow the city requirements which have more monitoring points for new construction than the township properties.

REPORTS

The Planning Commission business items were reviewed by Councilmember Patrick Westover. The commission approved the Special Use Permit for the vendor only, business-to-business Marijuana event at the Allegan Fairgrounds. Each member of the Planning Commission had received a draft of the Zoning Ordinance and would review it at the April 21, 2025, meeting when the Public Hearing will be held. Dye also updated the Commission on the process being taken for the Girl Scout property.

Downtown Development Authority items shared by Assistant City Manager Parker Johnson included the five Match on Main applications reviewed by the group. Another Mother, LLC and Lunabode, LLC would be submitted to the Michigan Economic Development Commission (MEDC). An update on Wayfinding Signage was given by Johnson. In addition, the idea of doing a land swap with Frontier Communications to increase parking at the Griswold was agreed upon. There were questions by committee members regarding the affects of the federal funding freeze on the City of Allegan, the hiring of a marketing intern and the use of video to spotlight businesses in Allegan, and the prospective businesses opening Downtown.

Public Spaces Commission business was summarized by Councilmember Carl Canalis. After a review of the price to remove grass from the baseball fields, the cost seemed prohibitive. Members will bring to the Commission suggestions on places to create sledding hills for next winter. The commission will move forward on establishing the butterfly/pollinator gardens, and member Paula Mintek will recommend a number of native plants for the Sports Complex. Questions were posed regarding the sidewalk project and removal of trees. An update of Green Burials at Oakwood Cemetery was given. Because they can be a bit complicated, more information will be sought. In addition, Sat. Dec. 13, 2025, will be the date for Wreaths Across America, and on Sat. May 3, 2025, six Civil War veterans who have rested in unmarked graves will have a Civil War Dedication while the Living History Cemetery Tour will be May 30 & 31, 2025.

Allegan Fire District statistics were shared by Council member Will Walker, and showed that the number of calls was less than previous years. Chairman Cook shared that the fire department was exempt from the Paid Sick Time legislation.

Allegan Wellhead Protection Committee minutes could be directed to Doug Sweeris and Chief Nick Brink. The monthly publication will be available the first week of each month. Committee members will be available during Bridgefest on June 14, 2025, to hand out coloring books, information pamphlets, water tattoos, and T-shirts and tote bags for coloring. The City of Allegan was awarded the 2025 Michigan Rural Water Exemplary Efforts in Environmental Protection Award during the MRWA annual meeting on March 20, 2025, at Grand Traverse.

Finance Request. The Council approved the request to pay accounts payable in the amount of $229,239.45 and payroll in the amount of $126,528.98 for a total disbursement of $355,768.43.

Special Assessment Roll. A review of the Special Assessment Roll for unpaid fees revealed a much shorter list of the Single Lot Assessments for Tax Year 2025. The Council scheduled a public meeting to assess the roll for those who have not paid abatement fees in 2024. After that time, the decision will be made to add those amounts to tax bills.

February Revenue and Expenditure Reports. The financial reports are posted online in the City Council Packet for the March 24, 2025, meeting. Questions can be addressed to Finance Director Tracy Stull.

Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. City Manager Dye requested that the Council approve the amendments to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual related to the new law termed Earned Sick Time Act. This new Act requires that employers pay sick time accruing at the rate of one hour for every 30 hours worked to a maximum of 72 hours per year. This addition required a new section in the Manual.

Public Works. A request to participate in the State of Michigan MIDEAL Program for the purchase of Road Salt in the amount of $27,200, and the request to approve the purchase from Chloride Solutions 2,500 gallons of Beet Juice for the City's Road Salt Program in the amount of $8,125 were both approved. These are required for the winter of 2025-2026. The salt and beet juice work together chemically to better attack road ice.

Road Striping. The request to approve an agreement with Michigan Pavement Marking to stripe certain streets and intersections in the amount of $16,000 with a contingency of $200 for a total budget of $16,200 was approved. The city partners with the Allegan County Road Commission for lane striping, cross walks, stop bars and school symbols. The streets to be targeted include Delano, the main streets downtown, River St. and Babylon Rd., N. Main St., Eastern Ave., Airway Dr., Bridge Rd., Bond St. and Hooker Rd. The road striping is in addition to the crack sealing that the city and county collaborate on.

Riverfront Railing & Post Repair. The request a change to P.O. 25-0781 with FC&A to repair the posts on the riverfront boardwalk in the amount of $9,891,13 was approved. When FC&A did the original estimate for sandblasting and power coating the black railing from the riverfront stage to Hanson Park, neither the city crew nor FC&A could perform a proper examination to determine the damage to the lower fence posts. Upon closer examination, it was determined that many posts require partial removal and splice kits to correct the damage. Riverfront improvements will come after Mahan Park improvements are completed and involve city staff who can use the city's barges and pontoon boats.

City Manager & City Clerk Texting Service. The request to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with TELNET Phone Services to implement a city texting service at a cost of $18.00 per month was approved. This is one more layer of communication from City Hall to city residents. The previous switch to TELNET allows the city staff to do SMS (texting) because the hardware is already available. The plan has unlimited messages and contacts and follows the SEC. Johnson was looking at ways to create a "landing page" that would take residents to a sign up page. This would cover DDA's request to get information out by text.

Lowe Street. A discussion ensued regarding the potential sale of a city owned parcel on Lowe Street. Councilmembers Westover and Morgan recused themselves. Dye brought estimates on the value that in 2017 was $31,000 but this needs an updated appraisal by a realtor or appraiser which would cost the city. If a business such as Tantrick took ownership, it is estimated that there would be potential job creation much like when they expanded from 1 to 19 employees during their first years in town. The taxes would bring about $1,005. The cost of contamination cleanup is difficult to determine because of the unknowns as to how much area is contaminated and the cost of remediating contaminated soil at the site. Dye believed that this is a petroleum contamination, and a firm must be hired to clean up the site. The original discussion was about process, but once the information was shared, the discussion turned to whether or not the parcel would have any value to the city because of the cost to remediate the soil. The consensus leaned toward the city selling the parcel.

Special Use Permit. The request to approve a Special Use Permit for a Temporary Marijuana Event to be held at the Allegan County Fairgrounds was approved. Dye reminded the Council that this was just a formality. The Planning Commission makes the decision on Special Use Permits. They hold the readings and the Public Hearing and listen to concerns and/or support.

Trestle Trail Bridge. Councilmembers Hooker and Walker asked for an update on the Trestle Trail Bridge. During their Coffee with the Council meetings, the desire to open the bridge to foot traffic and golf carts or off road vehicles came into the discussion. Dye quickly reviewed that the bridge was closed in 2022. The engineering firm had evaluated the structure and recommended closing the bridge to all traffic. Responding to residents, an estimate for replacement was solicited and came in at about a half million dollars without the cost of removing the old bridge. In 2024, a structural engineer reiterated keeping the bridge closed. After additional questions and discussion, it was determined that the bridge should stay closed.

City Clerk Appointment. Tracy Stull was sworn in as the City Clerk effective Friday March 28, 2025. Michaela Kleehammer will be leaving Allegan, and City Manager Dye recommended returning he title of city clerk to the department head who is Finance Manager Tracy Stull.

2nd Street Bridge Project. The request to adopt resolution 25.11 supporting the City of Allegan's grant request to the Michigan Department of Transportation Local Bridge Program to fund the rehabilitation of the upper portion of the 2nd Street Bridge was approved.

The lower portion of the bridge and deck was rehabbed 2 years ago. Dye reminded the Council that there needs to be a process to provide proper maintenance to the bridge. The City was not successful in securing an MDOT grant last year with a 5% match, so they will include a minimum match of 10% of city funds in this year's application. Even with the grant, the city will pay for engineering costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eddie Walker had sent an email regarding sanctuary cities to the Council. He reiterated that the current federal administration was revoking citizenship of people who are here legally and working through the process. Walker felt it important for Allegan to work with other organizations to offer legal immigrants a safe place without being deported. That means the local police force would not coordinate with ICE or assist ICE in rounding up legal immigrants. Walker finished with the belief that the City Council has the power to make an impact.

Tanya Westover shared that she was offended when she was not invited to the March 10th meeting that discussed the Lowe Street parcel. The parcel came to the Council's attention when Tantrick Brewing needed additional storage space. During the discussion by the council, one member suggested that she had an inside line to the vacant property, which was not true. There were other false statements made that were extremely hurtful, and she felt it important to inform the Council that the whole March 10th discussion was out of line with professional ethics.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Dye shared that this was the last council meeting with Michaela as she accepted a position on the east side of the State. He and the Council thanked her for her time with the city and especially, her steady demeanor during elections.

Mr. Peter Antkoviak submitted a request to the city manager requesting that the city allow him to purchase property along Monroe St. Dye shared that the letter that should have been addressed to city council. The future land use map shows this parcel in the city's vision as becoming part of Jaycee Park. The city does mow the area to the steep drop off. This is a section with a sledding hill. Consensus of the Council was to stick with the city's plan.

Spring Spruce Up: April 7 to May 2, 2025. Saturdays, 8am-3:30 and weekdays 7am- 2:30pm. Information was included in city Water Bills or online in Resident Services.

Hubbard St. Parking Lot Closes March 31st. The lot will be closed for construction with a deadline for completion by June 13th weather dependent.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Mayor Perrigo announced that she had received a letter from Arbor Day Foundation stating Allegan had received an award for being a Tree City. She then presented Michaela with a thank you gift for her work on everything.

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Art in the GARDEN
Sat., April 12th • 10am-4pm
at the Silo
1071 32nd St. (M-40 South) • Allegan, Michigan
Celebrating artistic expression through music, skits, readings & workshops
Workshop Schedule
11:00 - NOON
• Fun with Fabric • Watercolor Cards
12:30-2:00 • Improv Theater
Live Music:
2-3:30 - Kitten and the Tonics
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• Hawaiian (Mozzarella, Ham, Bacon, Pineapple)
• Hawaiian BBQ Chicken (BBQ Sauce, Chicken, Mozzarella, Ham, Pineapple)
• Breakfast Pizza (Cheese Sauce, Mozzarella and Cheddar Cheese, Scrambled Egg, Pick One: Ham, Bacon, Sausage, Chorizo, Hamburger)
• Chicken Bacon Ranch (Ranch Sauce, Chicken, Mozzarella Cheese, Bacon)
• Bacon Cheeseburger Pizza (Mozzarella and Cheddar Cheese, Hamburger, Bacon)
• BBQ Chicken Pizza (BBQ Sauce, Chicken, Bacon, Mozzarella Cheese, Red Onion)
Pizza Bombs
$8.99 Each
Pepperoni Bomb
Mozz cheese, pepperoni, 1 side of red sauce
Chicken Bacon Bomb
Mozz & cheddar cheese, bacon, chicken, 1 side of ranch
Build Your Own Pizza
12" $9.99 - 16" $15.99
Toppings: 12" $1.50 - 16" $2.25
Crust: Original, Thin Crust
Topping Choices:
Pepperoni, Sausage, Bacon, Ham, Hamburger, Chicken, Chorizo, Meatballs, Green Peppers, Red Onion, Fresh Mushrooms, Green Olives, Jalapenos, Black Olives, Banana Peppers, Pineapple, Extra Cheese, Wing Sauces (See Back), Red Sauce
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Allegan Tech Center culinary students shine at Michigan Hospitality Foundation ProStart State Competition

Students from the Allegan Tech Center showcased their culinary talents at the Michigan Hospitality Foundation ProStart State Culinary Competition on March 10th and 11th in Battle Creek. Competing against teams from across the state, Allegan students demonstrated exceptional skill, creativity, and composure under pressure.

The competition tested students' abilities to perform under real-world conditions, with just one hour to prepare their dishes while being closely observed by judges. The judges not only evaluated their cooking techniques but also asked detailed questions about their processes, ingredients, and the reasoning behind their choices. Despite the intensity, Allegan Tech Center students represented their school with professionalism and confidence.

The Allegan Tech Center students competed in several categories, including two Culinary teams, two Management teams, five Pasta teams, three Cake Decorating teams, and nine individuals in the Knife Cuts competition.

Among the standout performances was the culinary team featuring Landon Fance Coulson (Allegan), Cole Milbocker (Allegan), and Noah Sauceda (Fennville). Their remarkable dish, Squid Ink Pasta with Baby Octopus in a Spicy Amatriciana Sauce, captured the judges' attention and earned them well-deserved recognition and fifth place in the pasta competition.

Instructor Andrea Dulac expressed her pride in all her students, emphasizing the dedication and skill they brought to the competition. "Overall, I would say that all my students performed well," Dulac shared. "They handled themselves with grace and maturity and truly impressed me. With the skills they demonstrated in competition, I am confident that they will have success in whatever career they choose."

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Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of Mar. 24, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Wed., Mar. 26, 2025, 11am-12:30pm: Allegan Co. CHNA Results
Michigan Room Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital Allegan

Thurs., Mar. 27, 2025, 3:30pm: Bike Repair with Tom Hunter
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan

Fri., Mar. 28, 2025, 6pm: Chris Karl live at the Allegan Eagles
Allegan Eagles 110 Chestnut St. Allegan

Fri., Mar. 28, 2025, 6pm: Chris Karl live at the Allegan Eagles
Allegan Eagles 110 Chestnut St. Allegan

Fri., Mar. 28, 2925, 10pm: Kitten's Rockabilly Trio
Schaendorf Brewing Co. 412 Water St. Allegan

Sat., Mar. 29, 2925, 10am-8pm: Allegan Folklife Music/Art Festival
Allegan High School Western Ave. Allegan

Mon., Mar. 31, 4-5pm: Small Business Support Group
Tantrick Down Under Riverfront Plaza Allegan

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Mar. 26, 2025, 11am-12:30pm: Allegan Co. CHNA Results
Michigan Room Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital Allegan
Open to all MACC members. This online /virtual event is open to all and will share the results of the Allegan County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

Wed., Mar. 26, 2025, 5-6:30pm: An evening with the Williams Family Trio and Jack Dailey
1st Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
The music will be followed at 6:30pm with a Soup Supper. The $14 fundraiser will go to purchase a new dishwasher.

Wed., Mar. 26, 2025, 10am: Play Café
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Caregivers can enjoy a cup of coffee while little ones are having fun in their area.

Wed., Mar. 26, 2025, 6-8pm: Sunflowers
Thurs., Mar. 27, 2025, 1-3pm: Sunflowers
Brave Art Studios 1873 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Learn to paint Sunflowers! No experience necessary. Register at https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr. For info email. brave.art.carr@gmail.com.

Thurs., Mar. 27, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30 am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 yr. olds & caregivers can hear stories and enjoy activities.
3:30pm: Bike Repair with Tom Hunter – learn bike repair techniques from Mr. Hunter. Register at (269) 673-4625.

Thurs., Mar. 27, 2025, 3-6pm: Walk-In DIY Sassy Shirt Bar
The Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan
Create your very own one-of-a-kind shirt! Tees starting at $25, crewnecks at $50, and hoodies for $65.

Thurs., Mar. 27, 2025, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a friend and check your memory!

Fri., Mar. 28, 2025, 10:30am: Sing Song Family Yoga
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
All ages can join Deb Weiss-Gelmi as she combines yoga, music, and literacy together in this unique, engaging, and fun-loving experience for kids and their adult caregivers.

Fri., Mar. 28, 2025, 4:30-8pm: Fish FRYday
LYNX Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Enjoy fried pollack, fries, coleslaw & bread.

Fri., Mar. 28, 2025, 6pm: Chris Karl live at the Allegan Eagles
Allegan Eagles 110 Chestnut St. Allegan
Chamber Member Event to enjoy favorite classic rock.

Fri., Mar. 28, 2925, 10pm: Kitten's Rockabilly Trio
Schaendorf Brewing Co. 412 Water St. Allegan
Enjoy late evening fun.

Sat., Mar. 29, 2025, 11am: Jumpstart Your Genealogy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Professional Genealogist Megan Heyl is back to help us hunt down and organize our family histories.

Sat., Mar. 29, 2925, 10am-8pm: Allegan Folklife Music/Art Festival
Allegan High School Western Ave. Allegan
A fun filled day listening to bands from across Southwest Michigan, admire the work of 40 artists and craft individuals, and attend workshops on Native Pow Wow Dance, Ukulele, Claw Banjo and African Drumming. Supported by The National Endowment of the Arts, The MI Arts & Culture Council, the Mignon Delano Foundation, the Allegan County Community Foundation, and Ascension Borgess.

Sat., Mar. 29, 2025, 8pm: Twilight Tunes - Dueling Pianos at the Eagles
Allegan Eagles 110 Chestnut St. Allegan
A Chamber Member Event to enjoy this incredible group that will play just about anything requested.

Sun., Mar. 30, 2025, 7:30pm: The Bird Day Party
The Tilt 118 Brady St. Allegan
Welcome to Birdie's Bar when the irregular regulars throw Bridy a birthday party that unwelcome guests turn into a madcap escapade. Get tickets at allegancommunityplayers.org. Order food before 6:30pm and drinks by 7pm then sit back and enjoy the fun. Seating is limited. Tickets may or may not be available at the door.

Mon., Mar. 31, 4-5pm: Small Business Support Group
Tantrick Down Under Riverfront Plaza Allegan
Small business owners in Allegan and the surrounding area can casually come together and talk all things business related. Meet the last Monday of every month. March focuses on IT management.

Mon., Mar. 31, 2025, 6pm: WUPS Community Forum
Ebersole Center Main Lodge, 3400 2nd St., Wayland
Come and take the perfect opportunity for the Wayland Union School community to ask questions or share ideas with the Administrative team and Board of Education members. Learn about next steps and anticipated timeline for Bond 2023 projects.

Mon., Mar. 31, 2025, 6pm: Family BINGO
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy fun competition and win prizes.

Mon., Mar. 31, 2025, 4-8pm: Stitch Night at the Den
The Bear & Fox Yarn Den 141 Brady St. Allegan
All are welcome to drop in for a casual evening of fun stitching in The Den! Bring your crochet, knit, embroidery- whatever fiber art and enjoy some fellowship!

Mon., Mar. 31, 2025, 6pm: WUS Community Forum
Ebersole Center – Main Lodge 3400 2nd St. Wayland
The Admin Team & Board of Education invite the public to come ask questions or share ideas, and learn about the next steps and anticipated timeline for Bond 2023 projects.

Tues., Apr. 1, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 yr olds & caregivers can enjoy stories & fun.
4pm: TAG – Teen Advisory Group. – all youth in 9-12 grade can drop in to help plan activities.
5:30pm: Gentle Yoga - Stacy Harbour will guide participants through a gentle full-body practice designed to get you out of your head and into your body. Register at (269) 673-4625.

Wed., Apr. 2, 2025, 6pm: Pintesting
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Enjoy making a trending craft. Register at (269) 673-4625.

Wed., Apr. 2, 2025, 11am-6pm: Red Cross Blood Drive
Griswold Auditorium basement Hubbard St. Allegan
Sign up to donate at https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive or drop in.

Thurs., Apr. 3, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30 am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 yr. olds & caregivers can hear stories and enjoy activities with Help Me Grow Allegan.
3:30pm: Tween & Teen Crafternoon: Raincloud Suncatcher – 5th 12th graders can drop in after school and express their creativity!

Thurs., Apr. 3, 2025, 6-8pm: Blades of the Civil War
Dorr Township Library 1804 Sunset Dr. Dorr
Learn from historian and scholar Jerry Berg about the surprising role of swords in the incident that nearly made the Civil War an international conflict.

Thurs., Apr. 3, 2025, 7-8pm: Allegan Jaycees General Membership Meeting
Sassy Olive 125 Locust St. Allegan
All under the age of 40 are invited to attend and learn about the work of the Jaycees.

Fri., Apr. 4, 2025, 6pm: Family Nerf Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Ages 3 and older can come and duke it out in the stacks!

Fri., Apr. 4, 2025, 4:30-8pm: Fish FRYday
LYNX Golf Course 900 Lincoln Rd. Otsego
Enjoy fried pollack, fries, coleslaw & bread.

Fri., Apr. 4, 2025, 4-9pm: Cocktail & Appetizer Trail
Wayland Downtown Wayland
downtownwayland.com

Sat., Apr. 5, 2025, 4-6pm: Moss & Mushroom Airplant Workshop
The Down Under at Tantrick Brewing Hubbard Allegan
Eccentric Garden will host a workshop to plant and learn about new plants. Sign up at https://eccentric-garden.com/pages/class-landing.

Mon., Apr. 7-Fri., May 2, 2025: Spring Spruce Up
City residents may place leaves and brush at the street's edge for pick up. After May 2, waste should be dropped at the Dept. of Public Works facility on Airway Dr. Go to https://www.cityofallegan.org/departments/residential_services.php for additional information.

Mon., Apr. 7, 2025, 4-8pm: Stitch Night at the Den
The Bear & Fox Yarn Den 141 Brady St. Allegan
All are welcome to drop in for a casual evening of fun stitching in The Den! Bring your crochet, knit, embroidery- whatever fiber art and enjoy some fellowship!

Mon., Apr. 7, 2025, 6pm: Teen Game Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
6th-12th graders can drop in and play digital and board games.

Tues., Apr. 8, 2025, 9am: Coffee for Veterans
Immanuel Lutheran Church 631 Grand St. Allegan
ALL veterans who have served or are currently serving in our military forces can gather, have fellowship with other vets, share conversation, and enjoy coffee and donuts/rolls. Please come and see what this is all about and share this with others you feel might like to come. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (269)673-3335.

Tues., Apr. 8, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime – 0-2 yr olds & caregivers can enjoy stories & fun.
2pm: ROZ Puppet Show: George & the Dragon. – What happens when George meets a dragon?
6:30pm: Book Club – Come and enjoy great conversation about *A Psalm for The Wild-Built*, by Becky Chambers.

Tues., Apr. 8, 2025, 5:30pm: Rank MI Vote: Allegan Town Hall
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Join your fellow citizens at a Town Hall for a presentation of the problems with our current voting system and Rank MI Vote's ambitious plan for the solution: Ranked Choice Voting.

Wed., Apr. 9, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra Instrument Zoo – Drop in and learn about string & percussion instruments that KSO use.
2pm: Recess for Adults. – Enjoy time with friends from Arc of Allegan County. Craft, play games and converse.
3:30pm: Unicorn Party! – Ages 0-7 can come and celebrate unicorns with fun stories, silly songs & crafts.

Thurs., Apr. 10, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30 am: Preschool Storytime – 3-5 yr. olds & caregivers can hear stories and enjoy activities with Help Me Grow Allegan.

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Obituaries

Teresa Lee McIntire-Harnett, 68

Teresa Lee McIntire-Harnett, 68, of Pamplin passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at her residence surrounded by family. She was a loving mother, grandmother, and wife.

Born in Allegan, Michigan, on January 18, 1957, she was the daughter of the late Everett Lorenzo McIntire and Marian Elizabeth Allen McIntire.

Teresa is survived by her husband, Michael D. Harnett; six children, Shane Drennan and wife, Erin, Aubrey Sprouse and husband, Philip, Travis Drennan

Teresa Lee McIntire-Harnett

and wife, Virginia, Kelly Harnett and husband, Chaz Adams, Zachary McIntire and wife, April, Justin Harnett and wife, Emily; 11 grandchildren; one brother, Everett L. McIntire and wife, DeVona; and brother-in-law, Thomas E. Cook.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Mary Ann Cook.

A private family service will take place at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please consider making memorial donations to the American Lung Association, 9702 Gayton Rd, #110, Henrico, VA 23238.

Robinson Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family, www.robinsonfuneral.com

Joseph Beyer Jr., 93

Joseph Beyer Jr. passed away at the Oaks of Jamestown surrounded by his family on March 24, 2025. He was born on April 4, 1931. Joseph served honorably in the Army during the Korean War. He was married to his late wife Wanda (Brenner) Beyer for over 67 years. He retired from Bradford White out of Middleville, Michigan. Some of his favorite pastimes were mushroom hunting for morels, taking care of his lawn, and enjoyed listening to oldies. He leaves behind a legacy of love, commitment and hard work.

He is survived by his children Janet (Lyle) Boyles, Nancy

Joseph Beyer Jr.

(Jeff) Payne, Colleen Stein Rewa (Ed); 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his wife Wanda (Brenner) Beyer; parents Joseph and Sena (Vollink) Beyer; son-in law Lewis Stein; and his siblings Milo, Jenny, Gertrude, Ervin, Mable, Gladys and Beatrice.

Joseph's Funeral Service will be on Monday, March 31, 2025, starting at 11:30am with an hour's visitation beforehand at Gorden Funeral Residence, Hopkins Chapel 208 West Main Street, Hopkins, MI 49328. Interment to follow at the Salem Township Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Faith Hospice at Trillium Woods 8214 Pfeiffer Farms Dr. SW, Byron, Center, MI 49315.

Irene D. Goodrich, 92

Irene D. Goodrich, 92, of Williamsburg, passed away peacefully with family by her side at the Autumn House on March 14, 2025.

Irene was born on October 21, 1932 in Allegan. She was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Robert D. Goodrich in 2012.

The memorial service celebrating her life will be held on April 12, 2025 at 2:00 pm with visitation

Irene D. Goodrich

beginning at 1:30 pm at the Bible Baptist Church. A time for fellowship and refreshments will follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Traverse City Christian School or to the Autumn House. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Please visit www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com to read her complete obituary and to share your memories with her family.

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Child abuse prevention begins at the grassroots level

By Gari Voss

Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center continues to provide valuable services for abused and neglected children, but the goal remains to prevent abuse and neglect. In order to achieve such a lofty goal, the staff and board of directors implore everyone to learn how to build safe, healthy communities for all children.

Every April since 1985, legislative leaders across the United States make proclamations to demonstrate their commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect. These proclamations stipulate that children should grow up in a safe, healthy environment where education prepares them to reach their full potential. Political leaders acknowledge that community-based, parent-driven family resource centers have reduced child abuse and neglect across the United States by strengthening family frameworks.

But no matter how much legislators and politicians promote preventing harm to children, the elimination of abuse and neglect rests on people in each community to build safe, stable and nurturing environments. This includes educating all adults about how to use positive coping skills, seek options, and be flexible, so they become more resilient individuals who can create stable environments that give all children a brighter future.

Allegan, Barry and Van Buren Counties are fortunate to have Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center facilities that work each and every day to build a safer community while responding to children who have already been abused or neglected.

During April, Safe Harbor acknowledges that it truly takes a whole village to raise a child who is protected against abuse and neglect.

Community members can keep children safe by:

1. Becoming educated on how to recognize and respond to signs of child abuse. Safe Harbor offers FREE training for all adults in Allegan County.
2. Believing a child when they disclose abuse.
3. Reporting suspected child abuse to Centralized Intake by calling 855 444-3911.
4. Advocating for body safety presentations in all schools. Safe Harbor offers FREE presentations to schools in Allegan County to help children identify safe and unsafe touches.
5. Volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).
6. Donating by texting LIGHTINGTHEWAY to 44-321 and choosing Safe Harbor as the Amazon Smile charity.

Get Started. Friday, April 4, 2025 - Wear Blue Day. Every April Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month begins with Wear Blue Day.

Become Educated. April 14, 2025, at noon, Allegan County residents can show support for preventing abuse and neglect by helping Safe Harbor, 404 Sherman St., plant their Pinwheel for Prevention Garden on the lawn. The staff invites all to take time to enjoy a tour of the facilities and learn about how the staff works to meet the needs of abused and neglected children. Then, partake in a light lunch. No registration is required. This is a great step in becoming educated in ways to prevent abuse and neglect.

Take Action. Assist in planting the **Pinwheel Garden** at Safe Harbor, then take pinwheels or make pinwheels and create Pinwheel Gardens around town. The initial action can initiate conversations about the need to become aware of children with needs.

"The Pinwheels for Prevention Garden brings awareness to child abuse and neglect in a way that also brings hope," said Safe Harbor Executive Director Lori Antkoviak, JD. "In 2008, Prevent Child Abuse America adopted the pinwheel as the national symbol for child abuse awareness. Shortly after that, the Children Trust Michigan (formerly Children's Trust Fund of Michigan) sent pinwheels to the child abuse prevention councils to plant pinwheel gardens. Safe Harbor planted our first Pinwheel Garden in 2009 at the Sue Lange Memorial Park."

Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) introduced the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign in 2008. Pinwheels provoke a positive feeling and represent the childlike whimsy and lightheartedness that children should have when growing up in a happy, healthy environment supported by family and community members.

Individuals and businesses can easily show their support by planting small Pinwheel Gardens. Children can design their own pinwheels and create a garden.

Donate to the Cause. Safe Harbor will host their **17th Annual Lifeline Gala** on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 6pm at The Silo. The event raises both awareness and funds to support the victims of child abuse and neglect in Allegan, Barry and Van Buren Counties. Individuals and businesses can purchase sponsorships, and reservations can be made by April 11, 2025, at https://safeharborcac.org/events/lifeline/ or development@safeharborcac.org. Enjoy an evening with a wonderful dinner, cash bar, raffles, Buttons for Bravery Auction and wonderful like-minded friends and acquaintances.

Learn More about the signs of abuse and neglect and/or creating a safer community for all children by calling (269) 673-3791.

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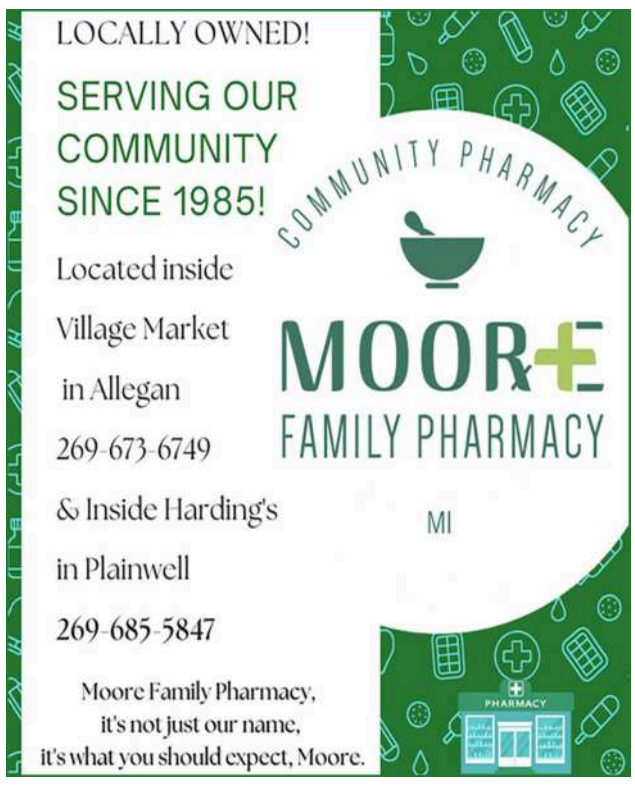

Destroying Tesla vehicles and dealerships makes no sense

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX

■ PUBLISHER ■

Maybe someone can explain to me why firebombing a Tesla dealership or a Tesla car makes sense.

Over the past week Tesla vehicles have been front and center in the resistance directed at President Trump and his DOGE leader. Elon Musk. Tesla cars have been firebombed. Keyed and the subject of Sharpie messages like NAZI written all over them.

I say if you want to protest Trump and Musk have at. They are attempting to put an end to the bureaucratic stranglehold they claim exists on our federal government. In so doing programs are being slashed and employees being fired.

However, I inquire about the relevance of this matter to the acts of violence directed towards Tesla. Tesla is a publicly traded automobile company that is owned by shareholders. Musk owns approximately 18 percent of those shares. The balance are owned by the big funds, Blackrock, Vanguard, etc. that invest for ordinary people like you and I.

Thus if you plan on bankrupting Tesla, like some lawmakers have pronounced, you aren't hurting Musk, in fact you are hurting small investors as well as the 100,000 plus employees that depend on their income from Tesla.

You won't hurt Musk because he owns several companies- Space X, Twitter, Neuralink and the Boring Company, just to name a few. We all know Space X has taken over space, launching rockets every other day and planning a Mars landing very soon. Neuralink aims at restoring autonomy to people with paralysis and potentially treating neurological disorders.

If Tesla is bankrupted, Musk will simply move on to another project. He will still be the richest man in the world. But the 100,000 employees will have nothing.

But back to Tesla. Those people that work for Tesla or are shareholders in the company have absolutely nothing to do with Trump or DOGE. Many of them agree with you politically. So again, why try to destroy them?

But wait, maybe the opposite is happening. I'm reading reports that more Tesla vehicles are being ordered than ever before. Once the darling of climate activists (Teslas are electric and don't pollute the air) are now being purchased by conservatives who swore they would never ditch their gas guzzlers.

My ownership of two Teslas was well-documented in columns a few years back. They are terrific cars for short distances, but my trips to Florida and back to Michigan were a nightmare because you have to stop every 180 miles to charge. I didn't buy them because I was promoting a "green agenda." I bought mine because they were relatively new at the time and I liked the novelty aspect. Now you see them as much as a Chevrolet on the road.

But I digress. As I keep stating don't blame a sheet of metal for what is happening in government. Rather, direct your blame to those who are implementing the policies you don't like. Peaceful protests are an American right, and I strongly encourage them, but firebombing and destroying property is bad behavior that might lead to a lengthy jail sentence.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

I sometimes glance at the marquee outside a church. Some give the worship hours and their cleric's name; others have a pithy little maxim to amuse the motorists. A good example was one about wishing Noah had swatted the two mosquitoes who got about his boat. Still, for the most part, before I have driven a quarter of a mile I can no longer remember what I read. Conversely, there are the occasional signs that stick in my mind like an old song we cannot forget no matter how hard we try.

The church down the street created a truly memorable message: Aspire To Inspire Before You Expire. Yes, it is catchy, it rhymes, but it is annoyingly all but impossible to forget. I think it is a wonderful message because this is one of the most important things you and I can do while we are alive: inspiring others.

A good place to start is remembering the names of some of the people who inspired us. I do not think any of them set out one morning thinking about being a long-term inspiration to others. They did not plot a course of action. They just did it, and we benefited because of them. Of all the teachers we had in school, we remember only a few of them. The same is true of the clergymen and women in our lives. It applies to neighbors, people we meet on the street, and almost anywhere else. From there we move on to the biographies we have read, and once again, some truly inspire and challenge us; others, not so much. Forget the pouting and photo shopping social media "influencers," who are on a quest for approval from others, while making money. They have an attitude that reeks of, "Look at me! Just look! If you would just apply yourself you can come closer to being as cool as me. But of course, you will never succeed. Like me! so I can make more money!"

It is the cadre of genuine, inspirational people who truly matter. They turn up in odd moments and places in our life, and inspire us to become a better person. A few years ago Pat and I were on a bus tour through Halifax, Nova Scotia. Our guide did several of these trips every day, and she had been doing it for a few years. I asked her for her secret for being so perpetually enthusiastic. She said, "Some days, when I am out of sorts, or I'm hungry, or my feet hurt, I have remind myself that the folks like you who get on the bus are here on vacation. Maybe they saved for it for years; maybe they know it is their last vacation. My job is to give them the best two hours of sight-seeing that I can manage." I do not remember all that we saw that afternoon, but I do remember her wisdom, grace, and elegance.

That was a good life-lesson in so many ways. While on duty, our guide took the focus off herself and put it on others. I find that inspiring. I thought about her remarks several times over the following days, and it stayed with me. Sometimes, when I do not feel very kindly disposed to the rest of humanity, or when someone really irks me, I have to remember examples like that and apply them. Patience and kindness are inspirational; being short-tempered is not.

Perhaps you had an opportunity to see the Netflix series, The Crown. It is a semi-historical biography of Queen Elizabeth and her decades of facing one challenge, crisis, or difficult person after another. I have seen a number of the film's trailers, and one is a meaningful exchange between the young queen and her elderly grandmother, Queen Mary of Teck.

Queen Elizabeth was having a rough time of it with government officials, members of her own family, church leaders, and others. She turned to her grandmother for advice, and the older woman explained that she must never let herself be owned by others. To paraphrase her, "A smile, a frown, a raised eyebrow and they will own you. Do nothing that shows surprise or weakness. Doing nothing is the hardest and most important job of all. That is how you inspire others. They want to be inspired and believe they can lead a better life."

That short segment brought to mind the time I saw the real Queen Elizabeth when she came to St Andrew's University in Scotland. A covey of dignitaries escorted her into a garden so she could inspect a tree planted hundreds of years earlier by Queen Mary of Scotland. She did it was the grace and dignity for which she was known, but I wondered what was going through her mind. Was she truly interested in this tree, or did she think to herself: "Seriously? I came all the way up here from London to look at a tree so old and feeble its branches are propped up? Which one of my soon-to-be-former knaves put that on the agenda? I should have said 'no' right from the start!" Instead, she looked at the tree, spoke to someone standing near her, and then turned and waved in our direction before she left.

Without any of us realizing it, she demonstrated not only graciousness, but sent a clear message that she understood who she was and why she was doing what she did.

It is another life lesson. If the sovereign of the United Kingdom could look at a old tree and hear someone drone on about its importance, then maybe you and I can carry out the trash, hold open a door for another person, wave another motorist through an intersection, while being nice about it all at the same time. That is what I mean about being inspired, and how we can inspire others.

A fellow writer from Minnesota just sent me a message that he is waiting at the boarding gate of an airline. He looked around and noticed that almost everyone was either listening to music on their device, or busy exercising their thumbs on the keyboard. Not one of them looked up, no one was talking to anyone else, and he had better sense than to try interrupting any of them. He added that old geezers like us who dare to do such a thing are sometimes rewarded with some venomous four-letter words or given the middle finger wave.

Nothing in the legal codes demand they look up, much less talk with others. But the social contract to which most of us must give at least a glance and affirm is a good idea, is different. It's terribly sad because if they had interacted with my friend they would have discovered he has an interest in them.

The world is still full of too much 'me, myself, and I' mentality, and far too much of thinking how boring and awful everything and everyone else is. They don't want to open themselves up to the potential of being inspired so that in turn, the day may come when they can inspire others.

We're better than that, and we know it. Go forth and Aspire to Inspire before you Expire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County spends tax money on unwanted projects

To the Editor,

I recently received a mailer which was labeled as being an Allegan County survey. Most surveys I receive are pretty generic, containing the necessary questions and answers one expects to see in such things. That wasn't the case with this survey. This survey came packaged more like a promotional ad for a high-end company with lots of money to invest in marketing, and in their marketing department. Such companies know that they're only likely to receive about 10-20% in responses, and from that a minimal number of sales. Nonetheless, these companies know it's an investment and, often times, garners them a tax write-off.

As I read the survey however, I found myself confused as to the point of it all, as many of the questions seemed more of a probe than a survey. Many had little to do, it seemed, with getting effective input about the county, its' operation and services and more like an internet scam devised to fool the unsuspecting examiner into divulging personal information, as though an illicit database were the true end game. It began to feel like there was something "dark" about the alleged "survey". But, it said "Allegan County" on it and appeared to be official and legitimate. So why all the questions, although softly enough worded to make it seem less probing, which felt more like the kind of thing one would use for the aforemen tioned database.

As is always the case with surveys and polls, in my opinion, it was easy to see that the questions were worded in a very careful manner, so as to illicit a desired response. That, along with the potential responses given for response being also cleverly worded, or deliberately vague, confirmed my suspicions that this was yet another survey intended to limit any potentially negative response which couldn't be dismissed, "spun", or "misinterpreted" in a way as to achieve a generally positive result from the survey. Oh, sure, there were options like "Poor" or other negatives, but the problem with those, and the survey as a whole, was that there was no way to add a reason as to the negative response. For example, if the question asked how the county is doing with a given program, initiative or service, and one believes that the county has no business being involved in or promoting such, one might choose "Poor". But that can easily be interpreted in the analysis as meaning "The public want us to do more in this area" when, in fact, the public may be saying "Stop doing that at all! That's not what we elected you to do and, in fact, we are opposed to such things". But because there was no data field in which to clarify the response, be it "positive" or "negative" with regards to the survey question, one cannot rightly answer the question as their response may actually work against their interests. This is how surveys and polls are manipulated from the outset so that the responses can be interpreted in whatever way the surveyor wants them to be, so that the surveyor can use those responses as "evidence" of "what the people want", should they ever be challenged openly as to why.

This should raise a giant red-flag for any thinking person, engaged in the functioning of the county, or whatever entity it may be. But what really stood out was the "high-end marketing" involved in issuing the survey. Why is the expense in making it look "pretty" necessary? Why wouldn't the typical survey format have been employed? Granted, it would have used a lot of paper, given the voluminous nature of the survey but why was it necessary to produce something so voluminous? Does Allegan County really have the resources for such things? Well, judging by the actions of those entrusted to run the county it seems "we do".

The Allegan County Board recently decided to spend some $12,000 to bolster (subsidize, it seems) an online "newspaper" which was previously unknown to me, or to anyone in the county I asked about it. It seems that there is also a rather low readership of this "paper" which begs the question, why are we subsidizing something an incredibly small amount of people in the county even know of, much less read? More marketing? We seem to be flush with marketing funds. Where did those come from? Are there still people in need in Allegan County? Wouldn't that money be better spent doing things for the county as a whole, or for individuals who really need a hand? Why are we spending $12,000 to appease… placate…sate a paltry few readers? But it's not just $`12,000 in new expenditures. Apparently this "paper" has been receiving that same $12,000 annual subsidy for the past two years. It's been three years and $36,000 of taxpayer money being spent for the "benefit" of a tiny segment of the county? That's pretty bad but don't worry, it gets worse.

Not only are we flush with marketing dollars, which seem to be a platform to "set the narrative" in and for the county, but we also have some $60,000 for…a lobbying company? Seriously? Our elected representatives at the state and federal levels are our "lobbyists". They go to Lansing and D.C. to represent us, our ideals, and to do for us what they believe to be best on all matters in the socio-political spectrum. We have elected persons to administrate and lobby on behalf of the If our state and federal level representatives can lobby on our behalf as districts and states, why can't our local elected officials do the same? Why aren't they doing the same? Yet we hire lobbyists to push our interests and needs while other counties manage to press their own interests without dropping $60,000 for someone to do what our elected officials are, theoretically, supposed to be doing already. In essence, we're paying two separate groups of people to perform the same task. I don't recall getting solicited for my position on this, do you? Where was that one-question survey? And for the real kicker, it seems we are spending over $10,000 more for this same lobbying company than are other counties.

I don't know about the rest of you, but having seen what's being found out in D.C. with regards to the massive, reckless spending for all manner of selective special interests, seeing the same being perpetrated right here at home is not only sickening, but illustrates just how willing so many are to follow suit. Perhaps the people of Allegan County need our own lobbyist to lobby the people we elected who are supposed to be lobbying for us, but who instead have to hire lobbyists.

Want to spend some money wisely? How about "Allegan County DOGE"? Can we get that by request? We don't seem to have gotten that by vote. Maybe we need another paper…and our own lobbyists?

Rodeo

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The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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4 P.M. Monday

The Allegan County News and Union Enterprise will in no case be responsible for typographical or other errors, but will reprint that part of an advertisement in which a typographical error occurs. The publisher reserves the right to reject or cancel any material at any time. The right is reserved to reject, omit or edit any material offered for publication.

Letters to the Editor

Forget tariffs, Trump cruel and racist

Dear Editor:

It is so interesting , Mike Wilcox is shedding tears over, convicted felon, Donald Trump's regime's tariff war with our good friend and neighbor, Canada. Tariffs that affect his publishing costs. Thats it? How about the cruelty, the racism, the misogyny, fear mongering, illegal deportations, illegal firing of important government employees, tolerance and support of Nazis , aid and comfort to violent criminals and sexual predators. How about Freedom of speech itself as Trump excludes journalists and questions he dislikes; the White House Press Secretary tells a few dozen lies every time she opens her mouth while disrespecting journalists who are trying to do their jobs. Mr. Wilcox, this paper serves a very inclusive, tolerant community otherwise you could not exist here. We are Democrats and Republicans; religious ,agnostic; male, female , nonbinary, trans; gay, straight, bi; all races and cultures. Your political leanings would exclude most of us yet we include you. Any apologies or support of the Trump regime says it all. Standing ready to defend all of my words.

Kate Sarfaty

Appreciate efforts of Consumers, Fire Dept and City

Mr. Editor,

I felt compelled to drop you a note regarding the events of our neighborhood during the recent wind event on March 15th. Near the intersection of Grove St. and Academy in the City of Allegan, A large tree attempted to fall due to the high winds but was stopped by a set of power lines causing quite a show and also a power outage. Authorities and consumers were notified and sprang into action. We were told it would be a few hours to get a "tree crew" from consumers out and then a "line crew" would come and repair the lines. They were understandably busy due to the winds. We settled in for quite a wait but were surprised to see consumers show up in just a couple hours. But there was a catch. It was a line crew in the area on other outages but the other jobs needed poles replaced and our job didn't so they ran over to look at it.

We could hardly believe it when the linemen busted out a couple chainsaws and began with careful precision, removing the tree. Then they set about repairing the very high and large broken lines. My neighbors and I were more than impressed. Who goes above and beyond any more?

A few hours after arriving they had things patched up. Then a city crew showed up. That's right, on a Saturday. Between them and the Fire fighters, the rest of the tree was on the ground and removed from the road. The Fire department had folks on the scene even after the fire and popping and sizzling stopped, keeping us safe. Kyle from the city crew made sure us neighbors were ok with them leaving it until early in the week for final clean up and he wasn't kidding. Early Monday morning they were back and did a great job.

My neighbors and my household feel very blessed to have been cared for so well. A big "THANK YOU" g oes to the fire folks, consumers crew, and the city crew that came out that day!

Kevin Moelker
Allegan

BOC must reign in spending on frivolous items

Dear Editor:

While I do not know her name, I would like to thank the brave taxpayer who stood up at the Allegan County Board of Commissioners meeting last week with the county's glossy new multi-page flyer in her hand and let the board members have it for such a terrible waste of money. That lady deserves a "Defender of taxpayers" award of some kind because when we talk about Allegan County wasting money, our Board is a special group of people.

Exhibit A - last year when one of the board members didn't file to get on the ballot correctly, the good ole boys club voted to spend $10 million of taxpayer money to pay a legal firm to try and help him on the ballot. I guess it pays to have friends who can spend taxpayer money.

Exhibit B - the recent ridiculous online survey the county claims they want residents to fill out! How out of touch can the board be? Who has the 2 hours it would take to fill out all the questions about stuff no one cares about?? At no point were residents asked if we want a tax cut or the if we felt the county could pull back from funding any its programs. If you had the time and patience to wade through the poorly worded questions, buried in the middle, you would find that these commissioners seem to want us to tell them to put a millage (tax increase) on ourselves to pay for more parks and recreation. No Thanks! You are taking enough already!

Exhibit C - the pathetic online newspaper that the County Board just voted to re-up for! $12,000 of our money for "underwriting" an online newspaper that no one in Allegan County has every heard of and fewer have read, a business that does not seem to employ any county residents and can't make it without a government subside! Taxpayers should know that prior to the vote, the usual lack of questions, debate, discussion and deliberation occured (which is NONE). This board does not seem to have time for important questions like - why are we funding this? How will we know if the taxpayers are getting their money's worth? How will we measure if this is a good expenditure or not? Why (according to the bottom of the website) is Allegan County the only county throwing money for this? What positive changes have we visibly noticed in the two years that we have been funding this (yes taxpayers, you have been supporting this for two years - $24,000- already- can you imagine your life without it? Can the Board?). In their meeting (which you can watch in the County's Youtube), the county manager said this website allows them to "fact check" and "control the narrative". Question for the board - if you are being honest and straightforward with taxpayers about our money... why do you need to "control the narrative"?

Exhibit D - the mailer the county board sent out encouraging taxpayers to go online and fill out the survey... the one my neighbor received and told me "They must not want my opinion because I am not online." What did the mailer cost to encourage a lot of people that don't have Internet to take an online survery?

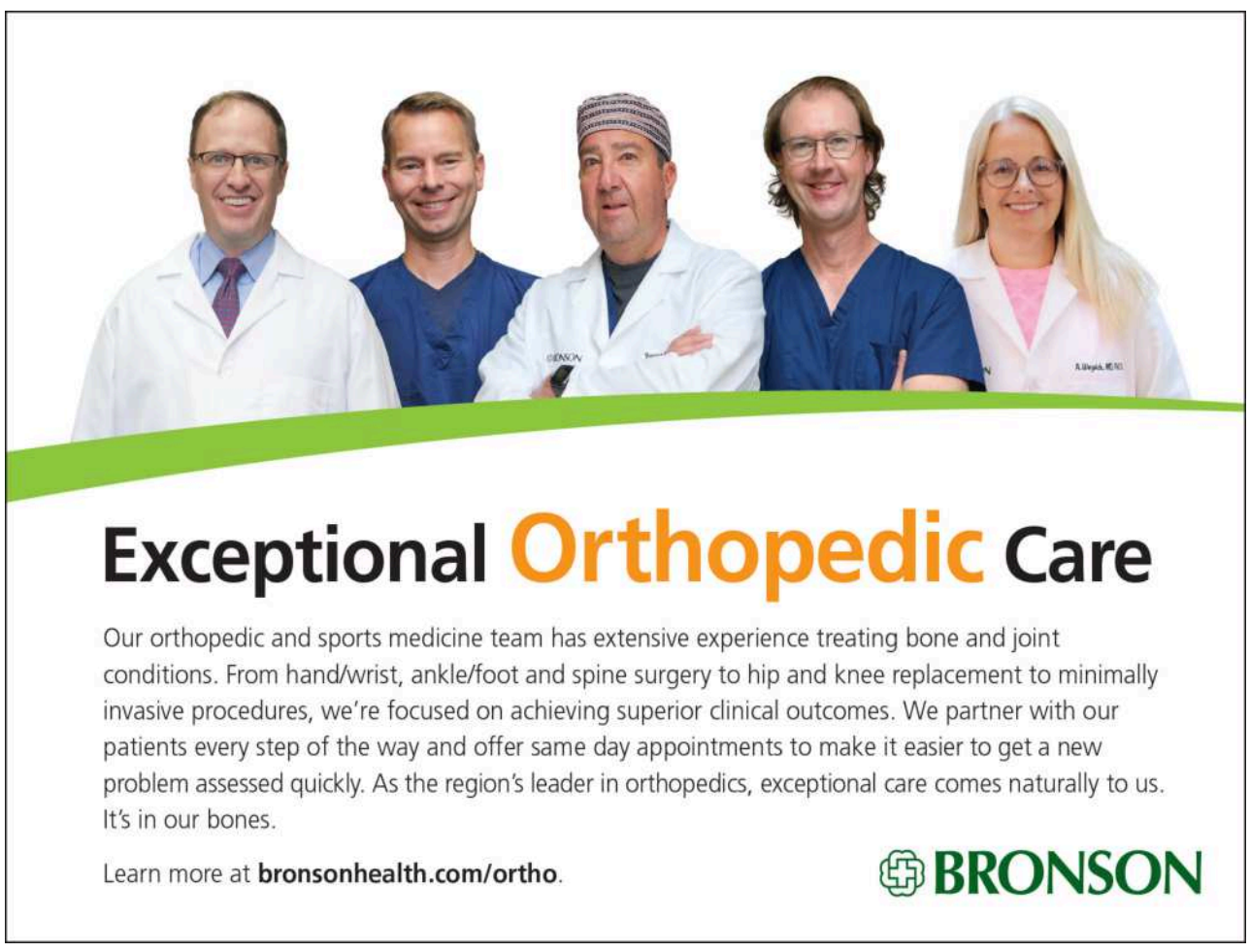
Exhibit E - the Board recently threw $60,000 of OUR MONEY (could someone remind them it's OUR money) at a lobbying firm for the county to lobby state government. In discussing the expense (you can watch the lack of debate on the Youtube), the board members neglected to note that we are the smallest county in the entire state blowing money on a lobbying firm and that county boards in counties as large as Livingston County (population nearly 200,000) manage to communicate just fine with their legislators without blowing 60 grand on a middleman!!! How many taxpayers did they ask opinions of before making such a reckless purchase?? Pretty sure they didn't ask our thoughts on that during one of their lengthy surveys!!!

Want to supersize that? - Allegan County Board members did! They spent $11,000 more taxpayer money than the more populous Berrien County on the exact same lobbying firm (https://www.wsjm.com/2025/02/13/commissioners-continue-contract-with-lansing-liaison/). I guess given the lack of discussion, deliberation and debate over such an expenditure, no one thought to ask - "maybe we should see what others are paying?". Again, the lack of questions before such a purchase makes the board look lazy or like spendthrifts!

The heroic woman who spoke at the Board meeting last week and called them out for their foolhardy spending also recommended an Allegan County DOGE to look into the county's budget for more recklessness. I commend her for that idea!

Taxpayers need to start making their voices heard by this out of touch Board rather than waiting for them to survey us... because even when they ask us, they don't ask the right questions!

Yours Truly,
Josh Wells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NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
FOR THE MAY 6, 2025 ELECTION IN THE FOLLOWING CITIES AND TOWNSHIPS IN THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS: OF THESE ALLEGAN COUNTY CITIES: DOUGLAS, HOLLAND, OTSEGO, SAUGATUCK; OF THESE ALLEGAN COUNTY TOWNSHIPS: FILLMORE, GUN PLAIN, HEATH, LAKETOWN, LEIGHTON, MANLIUS, MONTEREY, OTSEGO, OVERISEL, SALEM, SAUGATUCK, TROWBRIDGE, AND WATSON.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Election will be conducted on **Tuesday, MAY 6, 2025**. The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is Monday, April 21, 2025. Persons registering between April 22nd through May 5th may do so in-person with the local clerk with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations:

Municipality	Regular Business Hours	Weekend Hours May 3rd or 4th
Douglas City 86 W. Center St., Douglas MI 49406	Mon – Fri 8 am – 4:30 pm	Saturday 8 am – 4 pm
Holland City 270 S. River Ave., Holland MI 49423	Mon – Fri 8 am – 5 pm	Saturday 7 am – 3 pm
Otsego City 117 E. Orleans St., Otsego MI 49078	Mon – Thurs 7:30am – 4:30pm	Saturday 8 am – 4 pm
Saugatuck City 102 Butler St., Saugatuck MI 49453	Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 5 pm	Saturday 7 am – 3 pm
Fillmore Township 4219 52nd St., Holland MI 49423	Mon, Wed, Fri 8 am – 12 pm	Saturday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Gun Plain Township 381 8th St., Plainwell MI 49080	Mon – Thurs 8:30 am - 4:30 pm	Saturday 7 am – 3 pm
Heath Township 3440 M-40, Hamilton MI 49419	Tues & Thurs 9 am – 3 pm	Saturday 7 am – 3 pm
Laketown Township 4338 Beeline Rd., Holland MI 49423	Mon – Fri 7:30 am – 5pm	Sunday 7:30 am – 3:30 pm
Leighton Township, 4451 12th St., Wayland, MI 49348	Tues – Thurs 9 am – 4 pm	Saturday 7 am – 3 pm
Manlius Township 3134 57th St., Fennville MI 49408	Mon & Wed 9 am–4 pm	Saturday 8 am – 4 pm
Monterey Township 3126 28th St., Hopkins MI 49328	Call for Appointment 269-793-2014 Opt. 2	Saturday 7 am – 3 pm
Otsego Township 400 N. 16th St., Otsego MI 49078	Mon – Thurs 8 am – 4 pm	Saturday 8 am – 4 pm
Overisel Township A-4307 144 Ave., Holland MI 49423	Tues 9 am – 5 pm	Saturday 8 am – 4 pm
Salem Township 3003 142nd Ave., Burnips MI 49314	Tues & Thurs 9 am – 12 pm; 1 pm – 4 pm	Saturday 7 am –3 pm
Saugatuck Township 3461 Blue Star Hwy., Saugatuck MI 49453	Mon – Fri 8 am – 4 pm	Sunday 8 am – 4 pm
Trowbridge Township 913 32nd St., Allegan MI 49010		Saturday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Watson Township 1895 118th Ave., Allegan MI 49010		Saturday 8 am – 4 pm

All city and township clerk's offices listed above will be open from 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day, May 6, 2025 for the purpose of registering voters.

PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AS DEFINED BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT SHOULD CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE CLERK'S OFFICE.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE FOLLOWING WILL BE VOTED ON:

School Proposals

Otsego Public Schools Bond Proposal, **Delton Kellogg Schools** Bond Proposal, **School District of the City of Holland** Operating Millage Renewal Proposal, **Caledonia Schools** Operating Millage Proposal, **Zeeland Schools** Operating Millage Renewal Proposal, **Ottawa Area Intermediate School District** Special Education Millage Proposal.

For a full list of all candidates and proposals, please visit our website at www.allegancounty.org or www.michigan.gov/sos

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Community Closet offers free clothing

By Piper Raab

The Community Closet is located on 101 North Walnut Street; and is in the basement of the Episcopal Church It will be switching from: Friday's to Thursday's, for when they will be open. This change will take place on Thursday, May 1st. Their hours of operation will remain the same: 10am to 1:00pm.

They will change the clothing inventory from: Fall and Winter to Spring and Summer selections, very soon. Fall and winter clothes will be packed up and put into storage at the church. Spring and summer clothes will be unpacked and hung up.

"Anyone and everyone is welcome to come in and shop. There is no charge. Everything is free. There is no income verification required. We just ask that customers, please sign in," said Sue Buese. A wide variety of clothes are available, as donations come in. "We provide clothes for children, women and men. This also includes Women's clothes sizes: 3X to 5X.

We also have: undergarments, bathing suits, robes, suit jackets, full suits, shoes, sandals, socks, sheets, blankets, comforters, bed spreads, accent pillows, towels, jackets, and rain coats. Chris Thomas (a volunteer of the Community Closet for 17 years) said, "The Community Closet does not accept: pots and pans, dishes, silverware or umbrellas. They also do not recommend bed pillows as donations."

The Episcopal Church has an elevator. "Anyone that wants to visit and shop and has trouble getting up and down stairs, no worries," said Sally Hummel. "People on crutches or in wheel-chairs, that may be disabled, are more than welcome to come in. People with small children, strollers and small, pull-handle wagons are, also, welcome.

The Community Closet is going into its 22nd year of operation. "The first church proposal was written in 2003. Cindy Pyle was the founding director, along-side, Don and Linda Hausserman. Don built the suspended clothes racks," said Sue Buese. Judy Wendt took over in 2007. Sue Buese became the Director in 2020, and will be stepping down this month. Sally Hummel will begin as the new Director, as of April 2025.

Presently there are 6 volunteers: Chris Thomas, Judi McCall, Celeste Cummings, Sally Hummel, Tina Walker and Sarah Rahn. Donations may be dropped off at the Community Closet on the days that they are open. "This is a very important help for the people of the Allegan area. We know many of our clients on a first name basis. We know their particular needs and wants," expressed Chris Thomas.

The Episcopal Church is celebrating its 167th year, this year, in the city of Allegan. It was established in 1858. If you have further questions regarding the Community Closet, the church office number is: 269-673-2254.

From left to right, in the front row: Tina Walker, Chris Thomas. Second row: Sally Hummel, Judi McCall, Sue Buese, and Celeste Cummings. Photo credit Piper Raab

Photo of Dianna Stampfler in the Carnegie Room of the Allegan District Library. Photo credit: Piper Raab.

"Ladies of the Lights," presentation at the Allegan District Library

By Piper Raab

The Allegan District Library hosted author, and historian, Dianna Stampfler, on the evening of Thursday, March 20th, in the Carnegie room. Her presentation, entitled, "Ladies of the Lights" was a slide show and historical narrative account of the lives of 40 women Light House Keepers in Michigan, in all, were discussed, dating back, as early as the 1840's. In the dangerous and demanding job at that time; these women were pioneers of the profession. She is quite knowledgeable of the historic-detailed accounts of their lives: before, during and after, while serving as lighthouse keepers.

Dianna Stampfler is a published author of 3 books: Death & Lighthouses on the Great Lakes, A history of Murder and Misfortune, Michigan's Haunted Lighthouses, and Kalamazoo County Characters. She is an accomplished writer and researcher of Michigan history.

According to Dianna Stampfler's Preface, found in her book Michigan's Haunted LightHouses, her interest in Light Houses began in 1997. She was working for the West Michigan Tourist Association. "I left WMTA in 2004 to launch my own consulting company, called Promote Michigan, offering services, in public relations, social media, event planning, and promotion around the state." She is a freelance writer and broadcaster.

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Waanders an Allegan institution since 1936

By Gari Voss

Waanders Concrete Co.'s by-line states, "Providing concrete and service to the area since 1936." Mark Waanders, a third generation, explained, "We live on concrete time."

Mark's grandfather Ben Waanders had been a mason by trade and a farmer by holding, meaning he had a farm. This led to a decision. "He didn't have time to farm and to follow his trade," Mark shared. "He chose gravel and masonry."

Ben and Hilda Waanders' sons Dave and Fred shared some of the company's history. Ben's sons inherited the company. Dave bought Fred's portion in the early 1990s. But by that time, the third generation, Dave's boys, Chuck and Mark, were already knee deep in the business as was Fred's son Ben.

"I started working when I was in 6th grade," quipped Chuck. "I used to sweep the yard for my grandmother. She always kept me busy."

When it was Dave's turn to pass the torch to the third generation, he and his wife Irene were anticipating enjoying retirement. But like many who "retire" from a family business, Dave and Irene kept a pulse on the work around the yard.

The business is still primarily concrete. The Waanders trucks can be seen on jobs across Allegan County and beyond, but within a radius that is appropriate for the concrete to travel and be poured.

Even a concrete company must make adjustments to stay solvent. Mark admitted that technology brought changes in the time and effort required to mix concrete. Thanks to computerization, gravity feeds can transfer the raw materials from the silos, and concrete can be mixed automatically to the precise specifications to satisfy contracts. Even those aspects of the business have changed with better equipment, materials, and new techniques.

In 2000, Waanders could mix 10 cubic yards of concrete in three and a half minutes. "In the 'old days', it took half a day of labor to produce 10 yards," admitted Mark. "They pretty much had to mix it by hand, which sounds like a lot of work to me."

The hill of gravel on Grandpa Ben's farm came in handy to suppliment the company during its beginning years. Waanders mined all the gravel used in its operation from the family's holdings until the 1960s when they began supplementing farm gravel with purchased gravel. By 1980, the demand for cement forced the company to begin purchasing more raw materials.

"It only pays in volume anymore," Mark stated.

The acquisition of raw materials is just one of the changes made to meet supply and demand. "The business changes all the time," Chuck acknowledged. "We used to pour concrete building blocks but now we buy and sell them to customers."

Another addition to the company is crushed concrete. "We collect used concrete and once a year, we hire a group to crush it," said Mark. "We sell everything that we crush. It packs well for driveways and roads."

"Our business rides with the economy," Mark added. "Our business has been building up for years. But if the economy goes down, if there's less business to go around, the phone is going to ring less often."

Mark shared, "Over the years, probably half of our competition has been bought up by larger companies. We have 19 employees which is not much different from the 17 we employed 10 years ago."

How has Waanders ridden the storms over time?

One ace in the hole for Waanders rests on the many relationships built. Meeting the needs of the customers is a top priority. Mark and Chuck both confirmed that today Waanders often deals with contractors and masons who know exactly what they need and when, but if a do-it-yourself person contacts the office, the team spends extra time.

"In the old days, you had to help people because people mixed their own concrete, and they didn't always know what they needed when it was already mixed," explained Mark. "Now a days, you work with contractors who haven't done their own concrete."

"We have been born into the business," Mark stressed. "We were working at the age of 10 or so, and I began drawing paychecks at 17. After graduating from Allegan High School in 1981, I went off for about 8 months of diesel school then returned to the company. Chuck, my older brother by 8 years, and my cousin Ben continued working at the business right after high school."

Chuck acknowledged that he still enjoys what he is doing, "I am good at what I do. When I wasn't driving truck, I was welding in the shop. Everything on the truck is metal. We can buy some of the pieces now, but I used to make anything that wore out. Anything you touch with concrete wears out because it is abrasive."

Repeatedly, Mark voiced, "This is a lifestyle, not a job. You get out of bed every morning and do whatever needs to be done for the customer."

Mark and Chuck have made a quasi-division of work with Mark in the office doing sales while Chuck is an excellent mechanic and welder who runs the shop and machinery along with Ben, but everyone continues to drive.

"Concrete is a living beast that needs to get to the job site, poured, and worked to get the air out, then trucks must return to the shop to get cleaned. Everything is on the concrete's clock," stressed Mark.

"Concrete is an art," admitted Mark. "Today, concrete has the same basic ingredients of an aggregate like sand or stone, water and [Portland] cement. Over the years, chemicals such as chloride have been added because it gives heat that will help harden the concrete. But basic concrete will cure, or dry, quickly over the first 28 days. Then it continues to harden slowly over time."

Much like their dads, the fourth generation of Waanders has chosen the concrete lifestyle. Now in their thirties plus, Andy, Gerrit and Gage can be found in the yard or out on deliveries. Andy stayed with the business right after high school while Gerrit did work with contractors before returning to the yard, and Gage worked in the medical field.

"Our days are from about 6am to 5pm," they agreed.

Even with the long days, the boys gave a resounding affirmation that they enjoy working with family. Andy fills the role of mechanic and driver, Gerrit is a loader, and Gage the dispatcher. "When it is busy, everyone drives," reiterates Mark.

That leaves Mark's wife Bridget and Chuck's wife Mary to hold down the office and phones.

Truth be told, Mark admitted that he still loves to be out on the road with the wind blowing in his face and meeting customers. But after 45 years of working in the business, he is happy to head north and enjoy quasi-camping at his cabin in the Upper Peninsula. During a winter like this, he can take off on his snowmobile and enjoy the outdoors.

Chuck chuckled, "What's not fun about driving a 35,000 pound truck with about 35,000 pounds of cement on your back going down the road at 55? We still get out and go through the mud where no one else can go."

When asked if the boys are ready to take over the business, Mark replied, "A person can't learn this business without living it for a long while. They are making the choice to take up the lifestyle."

As soon as the sun shines, everyone is chomping at the bit to get on the road. "The contractors are starving right now and living on their savings," stated Mark. "Now that the weather is good, they are cranked up to get going."

Waanders Concrete relies on contractors who know what is needed for a job, but they promise, "We're happy to walk you through your project before you begin work to make sure you do it right the first time. Our knowledgeable staff can provide safety tips and will even suggest a contractor."

In October 2000, Walt Kaechele was able to gather the second, third and fourth generations of Waanders for a moment in time. Though they have added a few years, all but Dave are still active at Waanders. Pictured: Front - Chuck, Mark, Dave (passed in 2022) and Andy. Back – Gerrit and Gage. Not pictured – Dave's brother Fred and his son Ben. Ben is still with the company.

Waanders' concrete trucks have been a familiar sight on the streets and roads of Allegan County since 1936. Waanders Concrete, Inc. is working on its fourth generation of owner/operators. Currently, third generation owners Chuck and Mark are at the helm of the company with their sons and cousin Ben. As Mark describes, "The concrete business is a lifestyle."

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3/31/25.....vs Plainwell	3/26 ..... Covenant Christ	3/26 .....Hackett Catholic	3/22 ..... Allegan Early Bird	3/28 .....@ Wayland	4/17 ..... @ Coloma
4/1/25..... @ Hamilton	3/31 .....@ NorthPointe	3/31 .....Plainwell	3/27 .....@ Black River	4/16 .....Fennville	4/18 .@ Thornapple-Kellogg
4/15 .....@ South Haven	4/16 ..... @ Harper Creek	4/15 .....* @ South	3/29 .....Allegan Invite	4/18 ..... Allegan Invitational	4/21 ..OPEN (Cheshire Hills)
4/17..... vs Watervliet	4/18 ..... @ Paw Paw	4/17 .....Watervliet	4/10 .....@ Schoolcraft	4/24 .....@ Bridgman	4/24 ..... @ Gobles
4/22 .....vs Fennville	4/21 ..... Constantine	4/19 .....@ Martin	4/15 .....Buchanan	4/25 ..... @ Gull Lake	4/28 .....@ South Haven
4/25 .....Parchment	4/23 .....@ Schoolcraft	4/22 .....Fennville	4/17 .....* Hackett Catholic	4/28 ..... @ Gobles	5/2 ..... @ M 89 Challenge
426 ..... @ Hackett Catholic	4/25 ..... @ Hopkins	4/29 ..... @ Coloma	4/19 ..... Tiger Invitational	5/2 .....@ Parchment	5/5 .....Holland
4/29 ..... @ Coloma	4/28 .....* Hackett Catholic	5/1 .....@ Fennville	4/24 ..... South Haven	5/5 .....@ Lawton	5/8 .....@ Watervliet
5/1 @ Galesburg-Augusta	4/30 .....* @ Kzoo Christian	5/3 .....@ Bangor	4/26 ..... @ Mustang Invite	5/9 ..... @ Gobles	5/16 .....@ Bridgman
5/6 ..... vs Bridgman	5/02 ..... Wayland Union	5/6 ..... Bridgman	4/28 .....* @ Brandywine	5/16 .....@ Berrien Springs	5/20 .....@ South Haven
5/8 .....@ Lawton	5/5 .....Delton Kellogg	5/8 .....@ Lawton	4/29 .....Galesburg-Augusta	(MHSAA Regionals)	..... (SAC Finals @ Beeches)
5/12 ..... @ Saugatuck	5/7 .....Parchment	5/12 ..... @ Saugatuck	5/2 ..... @ Paw Paw		
5/13 ..... @ Delton Kellogg	5/9 .....@ Fennville	5/13 .....@ Delton Kellogg	5/3 .....Tiger Duals		
5/17 ..... @ OPEN	5/12 .....@ Lawton	5/17 ..... @ SAC Crossover	5/5 .....* @ Kzoo Christian		
5/20 .....Gobles	5/14 .....Saugatuck	5/20 .....Gobles			
5/22 .....@ Comstock	5/16 ..... South Haven	5/22 ..... @ Comstock			
		5/27 ..... @ Hackett Catholic			

Fennville Blackhawks

BOYS BASEBALL	GIRLS SOCCER	GIRLS SOFTBALL	TRACK
03/21/25 .....vs Bangor	03/19/25 ... vs Bloomingdale	03/21/25.....vs Bangor	03/24/25.....@ Watervliet
03/24/25 .....vs Eau Claire	03/21/25 ...vs Zion Christian	03/24/25..... vs Shelby HS	03/25/25 ..... @ West Ottawa
03/26/25 ....@ Bloomingdale	03/24/25 .....@ Shelby	03/26/25.....@ Bloomingdale	04/16/25..... @ Allegan tri
03/31/25 ..... @ Lee	03/26/25 .....@ Lawton	03/31/25..... @ Lee	04/18/25 .... @ Allegan Invite
04/02/25 ..vs Delton Kellogg	03/27/25 @ Calvin Christian	04/02/25...vs Delton Kellogg	04/23/25 ..... Fennville Tri
04/15/25 ..... vs Watervliet	03/31/25 ..@ Delton Kellogg	04/15/25..... vs Watervliet	04/25/25 . @ Lakeview Invite
04/17/25 ..... @ Saugatuck	04/02/25 ..vs Potter's House	04/17/25..... @ Saugatuck	04/30/25 ..... Fennville Tri
04/19/25 .....@ Multiple	04/15/25 .....@ Schoolcraft	04/19/25.....@ Multiple	05/03/25 .....@ Bangor
04/22/25 .....@ Allegan	04/18/25 ..... vs Hartford	04/22/25.....@ Allegan	05/05/25 .....@ Lawton
04/24/25 ..... @ River Valley	04/24/25 vs Berrien Springs	04/24/25..... @ River Valley	05/09/25..... @ Gobles
04/29/25 .....@ Bridgman	04/25/25 .....vs Black River	04/29/25.....@ Bridgman	05/24/25.....vs OPEN
05/03/25 ..... @ Gobles	04/28/25 ..... @ Saugatuck	05/01/25..... vs Allegan	
05/05/25 .... vs South Haven	04/30/25 ..... @ Coloma	05/03/25.....@ Bangor	
05/10/25 .....vs Saugatuck	05/05/25 .....@ Bridgman	05/05/25.....@ South Haven	
05/12/25 .....vs Gobles	05/07/25 ..... vs South Haven	05/10/25.....vs Saugatuck	
05/13/25 .....vs Coloma	05/09/25 ..... vs Allegan	05/12/25.....vs Gobles	
05/15/25 .....vs Lawrence	05/12/25 ..... vs Watervliet	05/13/25.....vs Coloma	
05/17/25 ..... @ OPEN	05/14/25 .....vs OPEN	05/15/25.....vs Lawrence	
05/20/25 .....vs Black River	05/15/25 .....vs Bangor	05/17/25..... @ OPEN	

Hamilton Hawkeyes

BOYS BASEBALL	GIRLS SOCCER	GIRLS SOFTBALL	GIRLS TENNIS	TRACK	BOYS GOLF
03/24/25..vs Spring Lake HS	03/24/25 .....@ Saugatuck	03/24/25 ..... vs Bridgman	03/22/25 ..... @ DeWitt	03/19/25 ..... @ GVSU	04/15/25 .....Wooden Shoe
03/25/25..vs Spring Lake HS	03/26/25 @ Thornapple-Kellogg	03/26/25 vs Thornapple-Kellogg	03/25/25 ..... vs Fruitport	.....Indoor Meet	@ Wuskowhan Players Club
03/26/25....vs Saugatuck HS	03/28/25 .... @ Unity Christian	03/28/25 ..... @ River Valley	03/31/25 .....vs Jenison	04/15/25 .....@ Zeeland West	04/17/25 UC at Pigeon Creek
03/31/25vs Thornapple-Kellogg	03/31/25 ..... @Holland	04/02/25 ..... @ Caledonia	04/01/25 .....vs Caledonia	04/18/25 .....@ Allegan	04/19/25 Hamilton Invitational
04/01/25..... vs Allegan	04/16/25 ..... vs Zeeland West	04/15/25 .... vs Zeeland West	04/02/25 . vs Wayland Union	04/24/25 @ Holland Christian	04/21/25 HC @ Winding Creek
04/15/25.....vs Zeeland West	04/17/25 vs Holland Christian	04/17/25 ..... @ Sparta	04/15/25 ..... @ Holland	04/26/25 @ Kathy Talus Invite	04/23/25 ....ZW @ Crestview
04/17/25.....@ Zeeland West	04/21/25 ..... @ Spring Lake	04/21/25 .....@ South Christ	04/17/25 ..vs Unity Christian	04/29/25 ..... Hamilton Duals	04/26/25 ..... Lawton Invite
04/19/25.....vs Multiple	04/23/25 ..... vs Zeeland East	04/22/25 vs Portage Central	04/19/25 ....vs Julie Genzink	05/06/25 ..@ Unity Christian	04/29/25 ..... HAMILTON Jam
04/23/25.@ Covenant Christ	04/28/25 ..... vs Unity Christ	04/25/25 .....@ Jenison	..... Tourney	05/09/25 ..... @ Conf Meet	05/02/25 .....M89 Challenge
04/29/25..... @ Holland	04/30/25 ..... vs Holland	04/29/25 ..... @ Holland	04/21/25 @ Holland Christian		05/03/25 .....Golf Tourney @
05/01/25.....vs Holland	05/02/25 .....@ South Haven	05/01/25 ..... @ Spring Lake	04/23/25 .....vs Spring Lake		.....Bedford Valley Invite
05/06/25....vs Holland Christ	05/05/25 ..... @ Zeeland West	05/02/25 .....vs Lakeview-BC	04/26/25 ..... @ Paw Paw		05/05/25 ..SL @ Spring Lake
05/08/25....@ Holland Christ	05/07/25 ..... @ Holland Christ	05/06/25 ...vs Holland Christ	04/29/25 ..... @ Otsego		05/07/25 .....vs Paw Paw
05/10/25.....vs Multiple	05/09/25 .....vs Otsego	05/08/25 vs Covenant Christ	04/30/25 .....@ Zeeland West		05/09/25 ZE @ Winding Creek
05/13/25..... @ Zeeland East	05/12/25 ..... vs Spring Lake	05/10/25 .....@ Multiple	05/05/25 .....vs Zeeland East		05/12/25 HOL @ Clearbrook
05/14/25.....@ Fruitport	05/14/25 ..... @ Zeeland East	05/13/25 ..... @ Zeeland East	05/07/25 ..... @ Hastings		05/15/25 vs Calvin Christian
05/15/25.....vs Zeeland East		05/15/25 ...@ Cedar Springs	05/09/25 ..... @ Holland		05/16/25 .....Comstock
05/19/25...vs Unity Christian		05/19/25 ..vs Unity Christian			.....Park Classic
05/21/25...@ Unity Christian		05/27/25 ..... vs Watervliet			05/19/25 ..... OK Black
05/27/25..... @ West Ottawa					.....at The Ravines

Hopkins Vikings

BOYS BASEBALL	GIRLS SOCCER	GIRLS SOFTBALL	TRACK	BOYS GOLF
3/19..... vs Unity	3/21.. vs Covenant Christian	3/19.....vs Otsego	3/21..... @ GVSU Challenge	4/15..... @ Fruitport
3/20.....vs Otsego	3/25.....@ Coopersville	3/21.....vs Plainwell	3/25.....@ Aquinas	4/17.....@ Delton Kellogg
3/21.....vs Plainwell	3/27.....@ Wayland	3/24.....@ Wyoming	3/28..... @ Belding	4/18..... @ Wyoming
3/26..... @ Buchanan	4/15.....vs Godwin Heights	3/26.....@ buchanan	4/15.....Hopkins Quad	4/19..@ Kent City Eagle Invite
3/31.....@ Belding	4/21..... @ Belding	3/31.....@ Belding	4/18.....@ Watervliet	4/23.....@ NorthPointe
4/1.....vs Wayland	4/23..... vs Fruitport	4/15..... vs Kellogsville	4/22..... @ Godwin Heights	4/25.....@ Comstock Park
4/2..... vs Belding	4/25..... vs Allegan	4/17.....@ Holland Christian	4/29..... @ Belding	4/30..... @ Belding
4/15..... vs Kelloggsville	4/28..... @ Calvin Christian	4/18..... @ Vicksburg	5/3..... Hopkins INvite	5/2.....Hopkins Jamboree
4/17.....@ Kelloggsville	4/30.....@ Kellogsville	4/22.....vs Calvin Christian	5/9. Conf. @ Comstock Park	5/6..... @ Thornapple Kellogg
4/18..... @ Vicksburg	5/2..... vs COmstock Park	4/24.....vs Zeeland East	5/12..... @ Comstock	5/16.....@ Comstock Park
4/22.....vs Calvin Christian	5/5.....vs NorthPointe	4/28..... Covenant Christian		5/21.....Conf @ Fruitport
4/23..... @ Calvin Christian	5/16..... @ Jackson	5/1... vs Thornapple Kellogg		
4/25.....@ Holland Christian	5/20.....@ Olivet	5/6.....vs Godwin Heights		
4/26.....@ Allendale		5/13..... @ Comstock Park		
4/28... vs Covenant Christian		5/15.....vs Parchment		
4/29..... @ NorthPointe		5/17..... vs Olivet		
5/1.....vs NorthPOinte		5/20.....@ Fruitport		
5/6.....vs Godwin Heights		5/22.. @ GR catholic Central		
5/8..... @ GodwinHeights				
5/10..... @ GR Union				
5/13.....@ Comstock Park				
5/15.....vs Comstock Park				

Martin Clippers

BOYS BASEBALL	GIRLS SOFTBALL	TRACK
03/19/25 ....@ Bloomingdale	03/19/25.....@ Bloomingdale	04/16/25 .....Martin Invite
03/25/25 ..... @ Tri-Unity	03/28/25..... vs Hastings	04/23/25 .....@ Constantine
03/28/25 .....vs GR Union	04/15/25..... vs OPEN	04/25/25 ..... vs Kent City HS
04/01/25 ...vs Zion Christian	04/17/25...vs Delton Kellogg	04/30/25 .....Martin Invite
04/15/25 .....vs Black River	04/19/25.....vs Multiple	05/05/25 .....@ Lawton HS
04/17/25 ..vs Delton Kellogg	04/22/25 @ Galesburg-Augusta	05/09/25 ..... John Green
04/19/25 .....vs Multiple	04/24/25 @ Hackett Catholic	..... Invitational at Mendon
04/22/25 @ Galesburg-Augusta	04/29/25..... @ Saugatuck	
04/24/25 .....vs Sacred Heart	05/06/25..... vs Gobles	
04/29/25 ..... @ Saugatuck	05/09/25..... @ Plainwell	
05/06/25 .....vs Gobles	05/13/25..... vs OPEN	
05/09/25 ..... @ Plainwell	05/15/25..... vs South Haven	
05/13/25 .....vs OPEN	05/17/25..... vs OPEN	
05/15/25 ..... vs South Haven	05/21/25.....@ Lawrence	
05/17/25 ..... @ OPEN		
05/21/25 .....@ Lawrence		
05/23/25 .vs Barry Co Christ		
05/27/25 ..... @ Marcellus HS		

Otsego Bulldogs

BOYS BASEBALL	GIRLS SOCCER	GIRLS SOFTBALL	GIRLS TENNIS	TRACK	BOYS GOLF
03/20/25 ..... @ Hopkins	03/20/25 .....vs Kzoo Christ	03/19/25 ..... @Hopkins	03/22/25 .....@Portland	03/25/25 .....vs Paw Paw	04/14/25 @ Edwardsburg Jam
03/25/25 .....vs Vicksburg	03/22/25 @ North Muskegon	03/25/25 .....vs Vicksburg	03/25/25 .....@Marshall	03/28/25 .....vs Wayland	04/16/25 @ GK at Lake Doster
03/27/25 .....@ Allegan	03/24/25 ..... vs Allegan	04/01/25 ..... @Plainwell	03/31/25 .....@Wayland	04/01/25 .....vs Plainwell	04/17/25 .. @ Vicksburg Jam
04/01/25 ..... @ Plainwell	04/02/25 . @Calvin Christian	04/15/25 .....@Edwardsburg	04/02/25 .....vs Plainwell	04/03/25 ..... vs Three Rivers	04/21/25 .....@ Niles Jam
04/15/25 .....@ Edwardsburg	04/16/25 ..... @Vicksburg	04/17/25 .....vs Marshall	04/14/25 .....vs Niles	04/18/25 ..... vs Allegan	04/23/25 .....Otsego Jam
04/17/25 .....vs Marshall	04/21/25 .....vs Niles	04/19/25 .....vs Coopersville	04/16/25 .... vs Edwardsburg	04/22/25 .... vs Edwardsburg	04/24/25 ..... @ Gull Lake
04/21/25 @ Kalamazoo Cent	04/23/25 .... vs Edwardsburg	04/19/25 .....vs Northview	04/18/25 ..... vs Petoskey	04/26/25 .....vs Ottawa Hills	04/28/25 ....@ Plainwell Jam
04/22/25 .....vs Sturgis	04/25/25 .....vs Lakeview-BC	04/19/25 ..... vs South Haven	04/21/25 ..... @Sturgis	04/29/25 .....vs Sturgis	04/30/25 @ Three Rivers Jam
04/24/25 .....@ Wyoming	04/28/25 ..... @Sturgis	04/21/25 ..... @Kzoo Central	04/23/25 ..... @Vicksburg	05/02/25 .....vs Parchment	05/02/25 . @ M 89 Challenge
04/29/25 ..... @ Niles	04/30/25 .....vs Plainwell	04/22/25 .....vs Sturgis	04/26/25 ..... @Multiple	05/09/25 ..... Conference	05/03/25 @ Sentech Services
05/01/25 ..... vs Hastings	05/05/25 ..... @Paw Paw HS	04/24/25 .....@Wyoming	04/28/25 ..... @Paw Paw	05/24/25 vs Under the Lights	.....Tournament
05/05/25 ..... @ Gull Lake	05/07/25 ..... vs Three Rivers	04/29/25 ..... @Niles	04/29/25 .....vs Hamilton		05/05/25 .... @ Paw Paw Jam
05/06/25 .....vs Paw Paw	05/09/25 ..... @Hamilton	05/01/25 .....vs Hastings	04/30/25 ..... vs Three Rivers		05/09/25 ..... @ Hastings
05/10/25 ..... @ Hamilton	05/12/25 .....@Harper Creek	05/05/25 ..... @Gull Lake	05/07/25 .....@Lakeshore		05/14/25 .....@ Sturgis Jam
05/13/25 .....@ Three Rivers	05/14/25 .....@Kalamazoo	05/06/25 .....vs Paw Paw	05/10/25 .....@Conferences		05/21/25 .....@ Conference
05/15/25 ..... @ Harper Creek	Central	05/13/25 .....@Three Rivers			.....at Pineview
05/19/25 .....vs Godfrey-Lee		05/15/25 .....@Harper Creek			
05/22/25 ..... @ Coldwater		05/16/25 vs Thornapple-Kell			
		05/19/25 ..... @Kzoo Christ			
		05/22/25 ..... @Coldwater HS			

Plainwell Trojans

BOYS BASEBALL	GIRLS SOCCER	GIRLS SOFTBALL	GIRLS TENNIS	TRACK	BOYS GOLF
03/20/25 ..... vs Loy Norrix	03/19/25 ..... @Lakeview-BC	03/21/25 .....vs Hopkins	03/25/25 .....@Schoolcraft	03/26/25 vs Edwardsburg HS	04/14/25 @Edwardsburg Jam
03/21/25 ..... @Hopkins	03/22/25 .. @Lakeshore Jam	03/24/25 vs Galesburg-Augusta	04/02/25 ..... @Otsego	03/28/25 ....@Wayland Invite	04/16/25 @Greater Kalamazoo
03/25/25 .... vs Edwardsburg	03/27/25 ..... @Hudsonville	03/25/25 .... vs Edwardsburg	04/14/25 .....vs Sturgis	04/01/25 ..... @Otsego HS	04/17/25 ... @Vicksburg Jam
03/27/25 .....vs Hastings	03/31/25 .....@Rockford	03/27/25 .....vs Hastings	04/16/25 .....vs Paw Paw	04/15/25 .....@Vicksburg Tri	04/18/25 @Yankee Springs Inv
03/31/25 .....@Allegan	04/16/25 .....@Edwardsburg	03/31/25 .....@Allegan	04/17/25 vs Galesburg-Augusta	04/18/25 ..... @Allegan Invite	04/19/25 ...@Hamilton Invite
04/01/25 .....vs Otsego	04/21/25 .....vs Sturgis	04/01/25 .....vs Otsego	04/19/25 .....Plainwell Quad	04/22/25 .....@Niles Tri	04/21/25 .....@Niles Jam
04/15/25 ..... @Paw Paw	04/23/25 .....vs Paw Paw	04/15/25 ..... @Paw Paw	04/21/25 .....@Three Rivers	04/25/25 .. @Kent City INvite	04/23/25 .....@Otsego Jam
04/17/25 ..... vs Schoolcraft	04/28/25 .....@Three Rivers	04/17/25 @Thornapple-Kellogg	04/23/25 .....@Edwardsburg	04/29/25 .....vs Paw Paw HS	04/24/25 ..... @Gull Lake
04/22/25 ..... vs Three Rivers	04/30/25 ..... @Otsego	04/21/25 ..... @Kzoo Central	04/26/25 .....Plainwell Quad	05/02/25 .....@Parchment	04/28/25 ..... @Plainwell Jam
04/24/25 @Hackett Catholic	05/02/25 @Portage Northern	04/22/25 ..... vs Three Rivers	04/28/25 .....vs Niles	05/09/25 .....@Conferences	04/30/25 @Three Rivers Jam
04/26/25 @GR Catholic Central	05/05/25 .....vs Niles	04/29/25 ..... @Sturgis	04/30/25 ..... @Vicksburg	05/16/25 ..... @Regionals	05/02/25 .. @M 89 Challenge
04/29/25 ..... @Sturgis	05/07/25 ..... @Vicksburg	05/01/25 .....@Parchment	05/05/25 ..... @Kzoo Central		05/05/25 ..... @Paw Paw Jam
05/02/25 .....vs Gull Lake	05/12/25 .....vs Holland	05/02/25 .....vs Gull Lake	05/10/25 .....@ Conferences		05/12/25 . @Tullymore Invite
05/05/25 ..... @Kzoo Central	05/16/25 ..... vs Loy Norrix	05/03/25 ..... @Gobles			05/14/25 .....@Sturgis Jam
05/06/25 .....@Niles		05/06/25 .....@Niles			05/21/25 . Conference Finals
05/09/25 ..... vs Martin		05/08/25 . @Godwin Heights			
05/13/25 .....vs Vicksburg		05/09/25 ..... vs Martin			
05/16/25 .....vs Pennfield		05/13/25 .....vs Vicksburg			
		05/19/25 .....vs Burr Oak			

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Allegan County advances outdoor recreation accessibility for people with disabilities

By Cindy Sasser

Outdoor recreation is more than just a pastime; it's a critical aspect of maintaining both physical and mental health. And for individuals with disabilities, having access to outdoor spaces and recreational activities is vital to their overall well-being. Studies have shown that spending time in nature has numerous health benefits. The natural environment has therapeutic qualities that promote relaxation, reduce anxiety, and boost overall mood. For people with disabilities, these benefits are even more pronounced when they are included in outdoor recreation alongside their peers.

The "inclusion" movement isn't something new, in just the 20th century it goes back as far as the 1950's, but with the emphasis in more recent times, it's made a wider impact for those with disabilities. It's expanded to include not only areas of education, employment, and social life, but also recreation… the ability to fully experience and enjoy outdoor life.

Allegan County residents have expressed an interest in finding outdoor recreation for their disabled loved ones and Michigan has a plethora of resources for everyone to experience what our beautiful state has to offer. From the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan [www.dnswm.org/recreation-for-all/], "according to Mike Passo, Executive Director of American Trails and a wheelchair user, the single greatest barrier to accessibility on public lands is a lack of information."

Allegan County has made significant strides in improving accessibility for people with disabilities, ensuring that they can enjoy outdoor activities. These efforts are part of a broader movement to make public spaces, parks, and recreational areas inclusive for everyone, regardless of their physical abilities.

One of the key components of accessible outdoor recreation is the development of wheelchair-friendly trails. For example, the Allegan State Game Area, a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts, offers accessible trails designed for individuals with mobility challenges. These trails are typically paved, smooth, and wide enough to accommodate wheelchairs, motorized scooters, or other mobility aids.

Local organizations such as the Allegan County Parks and Recreation Department have played an instrumental role in ensuring that people with disabilities can enjoy outdoor experiences. Many programs are designed to provide adaptive equipment, including off-road electronic wheelchairs ("Track Chairs"), beach sand wheelchairs, adaptive bikes, and all-terrain vehicles. This equipment allows individuals with mobility impairments to navigate trails, beaches, and other outdoor environments that would otherwise be inaccessible.

The county also supports outdoor recreation programs tailored to individuals with disabilities. These programs range from adaptive sports to nature therapy and educational outings. For example, some nonprofit organizations in the area host recreational outings like fishing, canoeing, and kayaking that cater to people with a range of disabilities. These programs often include trained guides and adaptive equipment to ensure that participants have a safe, enjoyable experience.

On a social level, outdoor activities allow people to connect with others, reduce isolation, and foster a sense of community. Many outdoor activities are social in nature, creating a space where people can share experiences and build bonds. For people with disabilities, this social connection reduces the stigma often associated with disability. The sense of inclusion can also lead to improved self-esteem and a greater sense of purpose.

On a physical level, activities like fishing, hiking, or canoeing offer people a chance to build strength, improve mobility, and enhance cardiovascular health. For people with disabilities, staying active is often a challenge, yet it is crucial for preventing secondary health issues such as obesity, heart disease, and muscle atrophy. Regular participation in outdoor activities can help people with disabilities maintain or improve their physical strength, flexibility, and endurance.

Nature-based activities can provide a sense of freedom and empowerment. Whether it's hiking through the woods, fishing on a calm lake, or simply spending time in a park, outdoor activities can help reduce feelings of isolation, depression, and anxiety.

"Accessible Recreation - Making the Outdoors Inclusive" can be found on The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website [www.michigan.gov/dnr/about/accessibility]. It will show which parks, campgrounds, boating access sites, etc., have resources allowing people with disabilities to enjoy them including ones that have Track Chairs that can be reserved on a first come first serve basis.

Below are parks and campgrounds in Allegan County that are ADA accessible:

Ely Lake Campground; 5020 116th Ave, Fennville, MI 49408: "Located within the Allegan State Game Area, Ely Lake Campground offers a quality camping experience that is located close to town but has a definite backcountry feel. Ely Lake contains 73 primitive campsites (16 of which are open to equestrian camping), vault toilets, and a swimming beach on Ely Lake."

Pine Point Campground; 168th Ave, Hesperia, MI 49421: "The campground is quiet and secluded, surrounded by towering white pines and rolling hills. The White River runs for 23.6 miles on the western side of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Fish for trout, salmon and sucker, or float in a canoe, kayak or tube around the point, a leisurely 1 hour float. The canoe landing is walk-in."

Gun Lake County Park; 2397 Patterson Road Wayland, MI 49348: "The smallest jewel in our park system is located on the west shore of beautiful Gun Lake. Formerly known as "East Side Park", this little four acre park has over 450 feet of beach, a playground, a basketball court, picnic tables, grills, a covered pavilion, and modern restroom facilities. Most of these amenities are ADA accessible. The park also has a boat launch with an ADA accessible dock that makes loading and unloading boats quick and easy."

Bysterveld County Park; 4171 14th Street Wayland, MI 49348: "Construction on Phase I of the park was completed in the spring of 2006 and includes two miles of nature trails, a picnic shelter, playground, catch and release fishing pond, a grass picnic/recreation area, a restroom facility, and parking for 75 vehicles. All of these amenities are ADA accessible. There are many splendid natural features that can be found on the park property, including rolling hills, wet meadows, wetlands, and woodland areas."

A few others are Dumont Lake County Park, Littlejohn Lake County Park, Silver Creek County Park, New Richmond Bridge County Park, and West Side County Park.

Visit [www.allegancounty.org/departments/parks-recreation-and-tourism/parks-photos-locations] for detailed information. While that's a very long URL, it'll take you directly to the Parks and Campground Directory page. Or, if you prefer, you can go to [www.allegancounty.org], hover over "Departments" and then click on "Parks, Recreation, and Tourism," then on the left side panel, click on "Parks, Photos, Locations." However you choose to get there, you'll find addresses and great information on each ADA accessible local park and campground that Allegan County has to offer.

Abandoned Wells

Got one?

The Allegan Wellhead Protection Program is looking for abandoned, unplugged wells.

Abandoned, unused, unplugged wells threaten groundwater resources and public health. Contaminants from the surface such as fertilizers, pesticides or other run off water, can easily move downward through the unsealed, abandoned well and enter the aquifer. These contaminants may end up in your drinking water well, your neighbors well or the local community drinking water wells.

The City of Allegan would like to identify any abandoned, unplugged wells in and around its wellhead protection zone and explore having them plugged. The zone extends east from the city of Allegan along the north side of M-222 east to 24th St.

If you are the owner of the abandoned, unplugged well and would like assistance in plugging the well. Please contact Allegan Water Utilities at 269-686-1117 or by emailing to Doug Sweeris at dsweeris@cityofallegan.org

Poor quality air encompasses north part of county

By John Raffel
Correspondent

ALLEGAN — Former Allegan County commissioner Jim Storey noted dusty, smoke-filled air descended on north Allegan County and other areas of West Michigan recently on an otherwise warm, sun-filled day earlier this month.

Several news reports pinpointed the source of the "worst air" in the U.S.A. as southern Illinois and carried by currents to West Michigan. The visibly brown-black atmosphere was no doubt captured by the trailered air monitoring station located in the extreme northwest corner of the county.

"The monitor's location has long irritated local officials because its results are cited to label the entire county a "non-attainment area," Storey said. "As Saturday's visible dirty air showed, the monitor captures cross-lake currents and may not accurately reflect the condition of air throughout the rest of our large county. Michigan and federal government air workers have stubbornly refused to move the monitor to a more central location in the county that would present a fairer picture of the county's air quality.

"With new leadership at the helm of the Environmental Protection Agency a second look at the location of the infamous monitor will hopefully occur."

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Saugatuck Trail-blazers

BOYS BASEBALL
03/24/25 ..vs Potter's House
03/26/25 .....vs Hamilton
03/27/25 ..... vs Hartford
04/01/25 vs Covenant Christ
04/02/25 ..... @Black River
04/14/25 ..... @Gobles
04/16/25 ..vs W. MI Lutheran
04/17/25 .....vs Fennville
04/22/25 ... @Delton Kellogg
04/24/25 @Galesburg-Augusta
04/29/25 ..... vs Martin
05/02/25 ..... @Black River
05/06/25 vs Galesburg-Augusta
05/09/25 ..... @West Ottawa
05/10/25 ..... @Fennville
05/12/25 ..... vs Allegan
05/19/25 ..... vs Our Lady of the Lake

GIRLS SOCCER
03/19/25.....vs Hartford
03/20/25.....@Bloomingdale
03/24/25.....vs Hamilton
04/16/25..... vs Constantine
04/17/25.....vs Bangor
04/21/25.....@South Haven
04/23/25..... @Coloma
04/25/25.... @Delton Kellogg
04/28/25.....vs Fennville
04/30/25.....@Watervliet
05/05/25@Our Lady of the Lake
05/07/25.....vs Black River
05/09/25..@Covenant Christ
05/12/25.....@Bridgman
05/14/25.....@Allegan
05/19/25.....vs Lawton
05/20/25..... vs Schoolcraft

GIRLS SOFTBALL
03/25/25 ..... vs Bridgman
03/27/25 .....vs Hartford
04/01/25 .@Covenant Christ
04/14/25 ..... @Gobles
04/16/25 ..vs W. MI Lutheran
04/17/25 .....vs Fennville
04/22/25 ... @Delton Kellogg
04/24/25 @Galesburg-Augusta
04/26/25 ..... @Holland
04/29/25 ..... vs Martin
05/06/25 vs Galesburg-Augusta
05/09/25 ..... @West Ottawa
05/10/25 .....@Fennville
05/12/25 ..... vs Allegan
05/21/25 .....@Bridgman
05/23/25 .... vs Watervliet HS

TRACK
03/25/25 vs Saugatuck Meet
04/16/25 ...@ Allegan Public
04/18/25 .... @ Allegan Invite
04/23/25 ..... vs South Haven
04/25/25 . @ Kent City Invite
04/30/25 ..... vs Bridgman
05/02/25 .@ Shepherd invite
05/05/25 ..... @ Lawton
05/09/25 .....vs Gobles
05/16/25 .....Saugatuck Meet
05/19/25 vs Calvin Christian
05/24/25 ..@ Distance under the lights

BOYS GOLF
04/15/25 ..... vs Lakeshorw
04/17/25 ..... @ Coloma
04/19/25 ..... @Hamilton
04/21/25 .....@Allegan
04/24/25 ..... @Gobles
04/26/25 .....@Lawton
04/28/25 .....@South Haven
05/02/25 . @ M-89 Challenge
05/07/25 @Tri at Hawkshead
05/08/25 .....@Watervliet
05/14/25 .. @ Hillsdale Invite
05/16/25 .....@Bridgman
05/19/25 .....vs Holland
05/20/25 .....conferences
05/28/25 .....Regionals

Wayland Wildcats

BOYS BASEBALL
03/24/25 .....vs GR Union
03/26/25 ..... @GR Union
04/01/25 ..... @Hopkins
04/16/25 vs South Christian
04/17/25 ..@South Christian
04/21/25 @Thornapple-Kellogg
04/23/25 vs Thornapple-Kellogg
04/26/25 @Bob Kloss Invite
04/28/25 ..... @Northview
04/30/25 .....vs Northview
05/03/25 .. vs Wayland Invite
05/05/25 ..... vs Wyoming
05/08/25 .....@Wyoming
05/10/25 ..@Berrien Springs
05/12/25 .....vs Coopersville
05/15/25 ...@Unity Christian
05/16/25 ..... @Lowell
05/19/25 .....@West Catholic
05/21/25 ... vs West Catholic

GIRLS SOCCER
03/20/25 ..... vs Hastings
03/24/25 .....vs GR Union
03/26/25 vs South Christian
03/27/25 ..... vs Hopkins
04/01/25 .....vs Lowell
04/15/25 vs Thornapple-Kellogg
04/17/25 ..... @Northview
04/21/25 ..... vs Wyoming
04/23/25 .....vs Covenant Christian
04/28/25 ..... @ GR Union
04/30/25 ..@South Christian
05/02/25 .....@Allegan
05/05/25 @Thornapple-Kellogg
05/07/25 .....vs Northview
05/09/25 .....@West Catholic
05/12/25 .....@Wyoming
05/16/25 .....vs Parchment
05/19/25 ... vs West Catholic

GIRLS SOFTBALL
04/14/25 ..... vs Allendale
04/17/25 .....vs Jenison
04/19/25 ..... vs Whitehall
04/23/25 vs South Christian
04/25/25 ..vs Kzoo Christian
04/26/25 ..... vs Holland
04/28/25 vs Thornapple-Kellogg
05/01/25 .....vs GR Union
05/03/25 .. vs Wayland Invite
05/05/25 .....vs Northview
05/08/25 ..... vs Wyoming
05/10/25 .....vs Centreville
05/12/25 ...vs Cedar Springs
05/16/25 .... vs Byron Center
05/17/25 .....vs Gull Lake
05/19/25 ... vs West Catholic

GIRLS TENNIS
03/31/25 .....vs Otsego
04/02/25 ..... @Hamilton
04/16/25 .....@Wyoming
04/17/25 .....vs Northview
04/21/25 ..@South Christian
04/23/25 .....vs GR Union
04/24/25 ..... @Zeeland East
04/26/25 ..... @ Plainwell
04/28/25 @Thornapple-Kellogg
04/30/25 ... vs West Catholic
05/06/25 ..... @Paw Paw
05/08/25 ..... @Kenowa Hills
05/13/25 .....vs Holland

TRACK
03/25/25 .....@ Aquinas
03/28/25 ..... Wildcat Invite
04/02/25 ..... @Hopkins
04/18/25 .....@Allegan
04/23/25 .....Wayland Duals
04/25/25 ..... @Hastings
04/29/25 .....@Wyoming
05/05/25 .....Wayland Duals
05/08/25 ..... @GR Union
05/12/25 .....@Wyoming
06/20/25 .....@Allendale

BOYS GOLF
04/14/25 .... @Forest Hills N.
04/16/25 .....@Wyoming
04/18/25 @Thornapple-Kellogg
04/19/25 ..... @Hamilton
04/21/25 ..@South Christian
04/23/25 @Thornapple-Kellogg
04/23/25 Wayland Jamboree
04/30/25 .....@West Catholic
04/30/25 ..... @GR Union
05/02/25 ..... @ M-89 Invite
05/08/25 ..... @Northview
05/10/25 @ Bedford Valley Open
05/15/25 .....@ Conferences

Local athletics proudly supported by these businesses and organizations!

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Wray's Septic Tank & Development Co
Wright Fence

cutline

Meteorologist Jeff Porter visits Lifelong Learners

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

For the past 16 years, viewers have seen meteorologist Jeff Porter on TV as part of the weather department for News Channel 3.

On Thursday, March 20, members of the Lifelong Learners program in the Plainwell/Otsego area had the opportunity to see Porter up close and personal.

In conjunction with Severe Weather Awareness Month, Porter gave a presentation to the group—comprised of area senior citizens—at the Plainwell Community Schools central administration building.

In addition to sharing his knowledge on weather forecasting and sharing stories from his time as a meteorologist in West Michigan, Porter provided essential information regarding safety tips for navigating Michigan's unpredictable spring weather.

"Special thanks to Mr. Porter for sharing your expertise with our Lifelong Learners group," Plainwell Community Schools said in a social media post. "It was an enriching experience for everyone involved."

The Lifelong Learners program is run through the Plainwell Community Schools Community Education Department and is open to all area senior citizens.

For more information about the Lifelong Learners program, visit www.plainwellschools.org/page/lifelong-learners.

Plainwell to act on purchases

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PLAINWELL – The Plainwell City Council was set to act on the first right of refusal to purchase two buildings at its meeting on March 24.The Council was to consider postponing this item until a utility access agreement and amendments to the existing common area agreement have been secured from BizEX Ventures. The Council was also set to hear compensation recommendations for elected officials. Solid waste haul out was also on the agenda. The council was to consider approving a payment of $6,500 to H and K for hauling out our street sweeping debris, along with an estimated $10,000 payment to the Kent County Landfill for disposal of the debris. Repair of the downtown city clock was also on the agenda. The council was to consider approving the mechanical and cosmetic renovation of the downtown City clock by The Verdin Company for $10,780. The council was also to consider a resolution to approve MDOT Contract 25-5115 and authorize City Manager Lakamper to execute the contract on behalf of the City.

Council will consider approving the Employee Sick Leave Policy Amendment Council.

The February Department of Public Safety and Water Renewal reports were expected to be delivered to the council.

'Seussical' opens at OHS

Several of Dr. Seuss's iconic characters will be coming to life at Otsego High School beginning today (Thursday, March 27).

OHS will present "Seussical," a musical adaptation of several Seuss classics, four times, with the show running through Sunday, March 30. The Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances begin at 7 p.m., with the Sunday show starting at 2 p.m.

Tickets are $15 for adults and $13 for students. They can be purchased at otsegops.tix.com or at the door.

They're in Good Hands Here

From puppies and kittens to senior pets, our caring and experienced team is here to provide your pet with the very best care and a compassionate touch.

Dr. Shanna Jack
Dr. Chris Buckley
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Dr. Melinda Kelley

Bluegrass Animal Clinic
594 10th St, Plainwell
(269) 685-5894
New Extended Hours
8:30am-1pm, 2pm-5:30pm M-F

Bluegrass Animal Clinic

Accepting New Patients

PHS presents 'Tuck Everlasting: The Musical'

The classic novel Tuck Everlasting will come to life this weekend at the Plainwell Performing Arts Center, as Plainwell High School performs "Tuck Everlasting: The Musical" for a three-show run.

Opening night is set for Friday, March 28, with a 7 p.m. start time. Shows will follow on Saturday, March 29 (also at 7 p.m.) and Sunday, March 30 (at 2 p.m.).

Tickets are $15 for adults and $13 for students, with children five and under admitted free. Tickets can be purchased at plainwell-schools.ludus.com.

CITY OF OTSEGO

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, THE 21ST DAY OF APRIL, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M., AT THE OTSEGO CITY HALL 117 E. ORLEANS ST., OTSEGO, MI.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY:

DONOVAN HASKINS
204 S WILMOTT
OTSEGO MI 49078

FOR A VARIANCE OF THE CITY'S ZONING ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:

A NON-USE VARIANCE FOR RELIEF FROM SECTION 3.19 – GENERAL BUSINESS PROVISIONS; ACCESS MANAGEMENT; B.2 DRIVEWAYS FOR SINGLE AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLING UNITS

THE PROPERTY UPON WHICH THE VARIANCE IS REQUESTED IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

204 S WILMOTT
OTSEGO MI 49078

LEGAL DESCRIPTION IS ON FILE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY MAY BE EXAMINED AT THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 117 E. ORLEANS ST., OTSEGO, MI, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, 7:30 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M., INCLUDING THE TIME OF SAID PUBLIC HEARING.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT ANY PERSONS INTERESTED HEREIN MAY APPEAR IN PERSON AND/OR BY COUNSEL OR IN WRITING.

CITY OF OTSEGO
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
BY: ANGELA M. CRONEN, CITY CLERK

B SECTION
The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise
SPORTS
First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest Award-winning Newspaper Best Sports Column
Thursday, March 27, 2025

Baseball Season Preview:

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Hopkins coach Pat O'Dell has a meeting on the mound with his infielders during a game last season. (File photo)

ALLEGAN

The 2025 season will be the final prep campaign for Allegan seniors Nate Kuebler (pitcher/corner infield) and Elliot Leece (utility), both of whom have been in the program all four years of high school.

Allegan coach Mike Geddes had high praise for both of them.

"Nate and Elliot have been a huge factor in helping the young crop of Tiger baseball players. Their dedication and commitment to the program has been honorable, and I want to recognize them for all their contributions."

Geddes hopes Kuebler and Leece are able to finish their careers on a high note.

Allegan's Silas Neldon prepares to haul in a popup during a game last season. (File photo)

"Our goal is always conference championship," Geddes said. "We have a young team with lots of baseball talent. Getting our young players up to speed quickly will be very important for our success."

Kuebler will lead the pitching staff after earning First Team All-Conference accolades last year. Junior Silas Neldon (middle infield) and sophomores Landen Geddes (shortstop/catcher) and LJ Dial (third base) are also expected to be big parts of the pitching staff.

Newcomers who could see time on the mound include junior Tyler Thomas along with freshmen Logan Osborne (infield) and Brayden Sternberg (catcher).

"Our strength will be a deep pitching staff lead by Nate," Mike Geddes said. "We have returning pitchers Silas Neldon, LJ Dial and Landen Geddes who will be able to give us quality innings as well."

Sophomore center fielder Brayden Kosiorowski is the Tigers' other returning player from last year's 13-20 squad.

"It should be a fun year for us," Mike Geddes said. "We have a fresh new crop of young baseball players who are ready to go."

The Tigers are sure to be tested in conference play.

"I'm not sure on how other programs sit from year to year, but I do know we have defending state champions Watervliet and Bridgman to get through," Mike Geddes said. "We should be somewhere in the pack, hopefully with a chance to finish at the top."

FENNVILLE

Young.

If first-year Fennville coach Michael Cochran had to choose one word to describe his team, that would probably be it.

Just how young are the Blackhawks?

Consider this: There are no seniors on the roster and nearly half of the team members (six of 13) are freshmen.

Young, indeed.

"We are very young, but as I get to know these guys, I am excited for our season," Cochran said. "Our learning curve is steep at the varsity level for most of our players, but our juniors are leaders, and everyone has embraced the challenge."

Not that the players are the only ones who will be learning as the season progresses.

"This is my first season at Fennville, so I am coming in with fresh eyes and a large learning curve of my own," Cochran said. "I know we have the defending state champs in our conference and district. So, we will need to be ready to go game one of our season to set the tone."

Juniors who will be asked to set an example for the younger players include Dereck Arenado (center field/pitcher/catcher), Zach Onken (corner infield/pitcher), Isaish Peoples (pitcher/catcher/shortstop) and Ely Schut (pitcher/catcher/center field).

Sophomores are Khordell Bernard (pitcher/first base), Riley Campbell (second base/outfield) and Emanuel Medrano (second base/outfield).

Rounding out the roster is the freshmen group of Ian Ciokiewicz (second base/outfield), Hayden Harris (catcher/third base), Seamus Lynch (corner infield/pitcher), Mason Sabala (middle infield/pitcher), Noah Stevens (third base/shortstop) and Brayden Wagner (pitcher/first base).

"Fennville's baseball participation numbers are low this year, but with what I believe these kids can do, we will be competitive every day," Cochran said. "Each player brings something to the team, and we will play to those strengths."

Cochran said he plans to stress the importance of fundamentals and playing the game fast.

"As the season progresses, I feel that these players will be growing their confidence every game and set a great tone for Blackhawks baseball to grow as a program," he said.

HAMILTON

What a difference a year can make.

After entering the 2024 campaign without a single senior on the roster, Hamilton enters the 2025 season with 10 seniors.

That should help, Hamilton coach Brian Grabinski believes, as the Hawkeyes strive to improve on last year's 11-20 mark.

"We have a lot of depth this year, which is something we lacked last year," Grabinski said. "Last year when injuries struck, we struggled to fill those positions because we didn't have any seniors on the team. This year, we come in with a lot of varsity experience and a good amount of depth at most every position."

The returning seniors are: Carter Basinski (pitcher/outfield), Clay Blauwkamp (pitcher/outfield/first base), Dakota Breuker (pitcher/outfield/third base), James Hoffman (pitcher/third base), Ben Nykamp (outfield), Breslin Nykamp (first base), Justin Stark (outfield), Carson Turcott (first base/catcher), Brett VanderKooi (first base/outfield/pitcher) and Landon VanderZwaag (pitcher/outfield).

Juniors Owen Brown (first base/pitcher), Caleb Oosterink (pitcher/infield/outfield) and Ryan Welscott (catcher) also return, as does sophomore infielder/outfielder/pitcher Marc Brower.

■ see **Baseball**, Page B2

Girls Soccer Season Preview:

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

ALLEGAN

Since he started coaching high school soccer at Lowell in 2000, Paul Legge has racked up a 393-142-33 record, including an 87-21-7 mark in Allegan the past seven seasons.

The 2025 campaign will mark Legge's last stand.

"I plan to retire from coaching high school soccer at the end of the season," Legge said.

And with nine starters back from a team that went 13-4 last season, Legge knows he has the opportunity to go out on a high note.

"We should be in a good place to again compete for another conference title," said Legge, whose team placed second in the division behind Kalamazoo Christian a year ago. "Kalamazoo Christian and Allegan should be the top two teams in contention."

Returning seniors for Allegan are Alyssa Macherzak, Ellie Bishop, Samantha TerAvest, McKenzie Rogers, Bailey Meade, Ireland Ashley and Cami Waite. Juniors Mya TerAvest and Elijah Ziemelis also return.

Ashley was named All-State Honorable Mention last year.

"We have a lot of experience on this team, so that will be our strength again," Legge said. "After dealing with numerous injuries last year, staying healthy will be a priority."

A newcomer Legge believes could make an impact is freshman Aubrey Fulton. She is the younger sister of former Allegan standouts Kaylee, Kaitlyn (two-time First Team All-State) and Allysa.

FENNVILLE

All coaches want their teams to peak at the end of the season.

Fennville did just that last year, reaching a district championship match for only the second time in school history as part of a 10-9-2 showing.

And with some key pieces of that team back this year, Mark Gray—entering his fifth season has head coach of the Blackhawks—hopes that momentum carries into in the new season.

"We have a solid core of returning seniors who will play big roles for us with leadership on and off the field," Gray said. "These girls have done a great job of taking their role seriously and using to help and push the newcomers."

Those returning seniors include midfielder/defender Christina Mendoza, center midfielder May-ling Mendoza Huynh, forward Nadia Perez and defense Yazmin Vega.

The junior tandem of midfielder Marisol Diaz and Anahi Sanchez also return, as does sophomore forward Andy Balke.

Newcomers include sophomores Elizabeth Guzman (forward/midfield), Yamileth Fernandez (defense) and Dian Santos-Porres (defense).

"The girls this year will be a mix of some veteran and young newcomers," Gray said. "As the season goes on, the goal is to build the chemistry and be competitive day in day out.

"We expect to work hard and grow as team in our understanding of the game and the execution of game plans."

Otsego's Peyton Dennany (right) battles for position in a game with Allegan last season. (File photo)

When it comes to the race for the top spot in the division, Gray views Saugatuck, Black River and South Haven as the top contenders.

"Those teams have consistent and well-coached programs," Gray said. "We'll be looking to try and edge our way into that group, but this year will be happy finishing in the top half of the middle of the conference.

"It's a competitive conference with plenty of talented players and teams. We hope to keep games close and be competitive from start to finish this year."

HAMILTON

There's a new sheriff in town for Hamilton.

And he knows a thing or two about winning.

Colton Johnson, former girls soccer coach at Gull Lake and boys soccer coach at Hackett, takes over as head coach of the Hawkeyes, taking over for Tyler Robinson.

In his coaching career, Johnson has racked up seven district championships, two regional titles and two state semifinal appearances. He was also an assistant coach on a state-title winning team.

Johnson hopes to bring that winning culture to Hamilton.

"It's my first year with the program, but I have high expectations," he said. "We play in the toughest conference in West Michigan, with multiple programs having won a state championship in recent years.

"That being said, I think we'll have a great structure and identity of how we want to play. Our goal is to build off of that and have things clicking going into districts."

Returning players for Hamilton include senior mid/center back Maddie Stoel, junior mid/striker Joslyn Paskvan and sophomore striker/winger Ella Achterhof.

Newcomers hoping to make a good impression include sophomore winger Ashlyn Brown, sophomore outside back Zoe Hippey, freshman midfielder Ellery Rietema and freshman mid/center back Grace Sexton.

"I think we have a group that's already buying into the new system and style, which is all a coach can ask for in the first year with a program," Johnson said. "We'll make mistakes and potentially drop points, but all that matters to me for us is being ready come districts."

In the OK Black, recent state champs Spring Lake and Unity Christian are again the teams to team, according to Johnson.

"We just want to be competitive in those games and shock some people with what we're able to do on the field against those teams," Johnson said. "I don't think a top-three finish is out of the question for us, but it'll come down to how quickly we can apply our style of play in year one.

"But this group is eager to take the next step in being contenders in the OK Black and a shot at winning districts. Don't be shocked when we're in the conversation come end of May."

HOPKINS

After posting a 6-10-2 record in his first season at the helm in Hopkins two years ago, John Mieras led the Vikings to a 10-7-2 mark that included a third-place finish in the OK Silver last year.

He's looking to continue that upward trend this season.

"I expect to be contending for a conference title," Mieras said. "Our team goals start with winning the conference, then focusing on a district title."

Much of Mieras' optimism revolves around a strong group of returning players.

"We are returning a core group of players who have played together for two years," Mieras said. "That experience coupled with the character of this team will be big for us. These players believe we win and lose as a team."

Returning players for Hopkins include seniors Riley Martinez and Rianna Hugmeyer; juniors Ali Langlois, Madi Langlois, Lacy Hulst, Allison Breining, Bridgett Stark and Allison Poll; and sophomores Aliza Kerber and Sutton Collier.

"Offensively, we're returning a group that have scored more goals each year since their freshmen year," Mieras said. "Defensively, we are returning a starting back line anchored by a goalie who was honorable mention All-Conference and All-District as a freshman (averaged 1.78 goals against per game last year) We also allowed fewer goals last year than the year previous."

Newcomers include the sophomore trio of Genesis Tuinstra, Makayla Glupker and Kayla Bracelin along with freshman Annika Ford.

"The only concern I have is maintaining a healthy team," Mieras said. "To accomplish our goals, we need to stay injury free."

When it comes to the OK Silver, Mieras expects Calvin Christian and NorthPointe Christian to be the beats to beat.

"Our conference is competitive," he said. "We cannot look past any team in our conference."

■ see **Girls soccer,** Page B3

Knash collects milestone win as Otsego sweeps Hopkins

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOPKINS—His team's 9-4 win over Hopkins in the first game of a season-opening doubleheader on Tuesday, March 19, was a big one for Otsego softball coach Jake Knash.

Not only did it get the season started on a high note, but it also marked the 200th varsity win of his coaching career.

Otsego also took game two 11-9 to complete the sweep.

"Overall, I was pleased with our first outing of the season," Knash said.

In the first game, the Bulldogs trailed 4-1 until the top of the fifth inning. That's when Otsego erupted for eight runs to take control.

Run-scoring doubles from Cassie Holland and Addy Lucas led the way for the Bulldogs. Maddie Back had an RBI single.

Audrey Lingbeek pitched all five innings for Otsego and got the win, allowed four runs on two hits and five walks with six strikeouts.

Madison Schwartz and Makenna Funk had hits for Hopkins.

Game two saw Otsego jump out to an 11-2 lead before the Vikings mounted a comeback attempt, plating one run in the fourth inning and six in the fifth.

But that's as close as Hopkins would get as the Bulldogs held on.

Lingbeek went 3-for-3 with a double, a triple and three runs. Madi Dendel and Sophia Pierce each added two hits.

Holland pitched and got the win.

Ava VanderKolk, Hannah Brinks, Kylie Williams and Kelsey Burgess each had two hits for Hopkins, including doubles for Brinks and Burgess.

Baseball ■ from Page B1

"I like the makeup of this team," Grabinski said. "We might not have one main superstar, but we have a lot of different people that can carry us on any given day."

Junior newcomers Keegan Springer, Jakin Cozzello, Jack Sabala, Keegan Cook, Dylan Loew and Connor Schrotenboer add to Hamilton's depth.

Grabinski expects state runner-up Spring Lake to be the team to beat in the OK Black.

"Spring Lake only graduated two seniors, so they should be tough again," he said.

HOPKINS

If experience translates into success, then this should be a very successful season for Hopkins.

The Vikings have 10 returning players—including eight seniors—on the roster, much to the delight of longtime coach Pat O'Dell.

"There is a lot of experience at varsity-level competition, which should serve us well," O'Dell said.

In addition to experience, pitching and team speed should be strengths for Hopkins, according to O'Dell.

"We have a lot of pitchers and good speed on the bases," he said. "Team goals are to win the conference and see how far this team can go in the state tournament.

"I feel we can be near the top, with a lot of pitching to get us through the season."

The eight retuning seniors for Hopkins are Christian Smigiel (pitcher/outfield), Luke VanSlyke (catcher/pitcher/first base/DH), Cody Benting (pitcher/second base/outfield), Aaron Arnsman (pitcher/third base/second base), Wyatt Stedman (pitcher/outfield/third base), Landen Dandrow (outfield), Owen Reed (pitcher/outfield) and Leyton Davis (pitcher/first base).

Junior pitcher/shortstop/outfielder Kellen Ford also returns along with sophomore pitcher/shortstop/third baseman/second baseman Trent Smith.

Newcomers are: juniors Jaxon Koperski (pitcher/first base), Cooper Anderson (pitcher/first base), Adam Halsted (pitcher/utility) and Cruz Hitzler (pitcher/middle infield/outfield); and sophomores Merek Zapolink (pitcher/corner infield) and Michael Woollam (utility).

"This team is excited to get rolling," O'Dell said.

MARTIN

After posting a 4-19 record in his first season as Martin coach two years ago, Brad Blauvelt improved to 6-16 last year.

And with a solid nucleus of returning players—led by six juniors—Blauvelt hopes to improve even more this season.

"We feel like we are starting to turn a corner as a program," Blauvelt said. "The kids are getting excited to play baseball again. A handful of the juniors are leading the way. They have worked hard in the offseason, and it should show this spring."

Martin's Haylen Buell runs the bases last season. (File photo)

Haylen Buell (shortstop/pitcher/catcher) spearheads that junior contingent after earning First Team All-Conference and All-District last year. At the plate, Buell hit .492, while he struck out 72 batters in 32 innings on the mound.

Fellow junior Anderson Keeler (third base/outfield/pitcher) also garnered All-Conference honors after hitting .383 and leading the team with 25 RBI.

The other returning juniors are Bryer Watson (second base/pitcher), Chase DeGlopper (outfield), Jackson Kennedy (pitcher/outfield) and Isaac Suk (catcher).

Senior outfielder Jayce Ritchie also returns, as does sophomore first baseman/pitcher Blake Sweeting.

"I like our experience level for an area of strength," Blauvelt said. "Eight of our nine starters have at least two years of experience, and they have shown that early on in practice. We've picked up where we left off last year.

"Haylen Buell will lead the way on both offense and defense. With that promising group of juniors around him and if Jayce Ritchie is healthy enough to play (shoulder injury from wrestling), then we will be a competitive team."

Blauvelt believes the Clippers will be in the middle of the pack in the divisional standings, with Galesburg-Augusta and Gobles the teams to beat.

"We are optimistic that our offseason work and prior experience will push us to higher levels this year," Blauvelt said. "We want to compete with the good teams, win close ball games and peak at the end of the season."

OTSEGO

Graduation took a toll on the Otsego roster, with seven players—five of them who started regularly—now gone.

And no where will that loss be felt more than on the mound.

"We will need to replace a lot of innings lost to graduation last year," longtime Otsego coach Matt Eldred said.

Seniors Karl Hildebrand (31.2 innings) and Jaydon Watson (28.1 innings) return with the most pitching experience at the varsity level.

Returning senior Peyton Koenig and junior newcomer Jaxon Ray are among the others who could log significant innings on the mound.

"Several others will be needed to step up and provide pitching depth as well," Eldred said. "With pitch counts, it's always all hands on deck and we could see some other pitchers emerge as we get going this season."

Returning senior Scottie Durr will be tasked with handling the pitching staff as the team's primary catcher after serving as the backup behind the plate last year. Durr hit .345 last year, second among returners only to senior outfielder Kyle Holladay.

Koenig will join Holladay in the outfield when not pitching, while Watson will catch and play some infield.

Other returning players are seniors Ryan Cockerel (infield/pitcher) and Drew Kortokrax (outfield) and junior Brennan Perry (infielder/pitcher).

When it comes to the Wolverine Conference, Eldred said it will be tough competition again this year.

"There are several teams that could make a run at the conference title," he said. "The WC baseball coaches all do a great job of having their teams ready to compete, and we often see very competitive games from top to bottom.

"If we can stay healthy, throw strikes and get the bats going, I think we have a group of kids who could find themselves right in the mix for the conference title at the end of the season and who could make a run in the MHSAA tournament."

Cass Stanberry is one of six returning seniors for Saugatuck baseball this season. (File photo)

SAUGATUCK

Case O'Neil has taken over as head coach in Saugatuck.

He inherits a team with a considerable amount of varsity experience.

Just how much experience is on the Saugatuck roster, you ask?

Well, 15 players have played games at the varsity level, led by six seniors and a pair of juniors.

Given that level of experience, it should come as no surprise that O'Neil ranks leadership as one of the biggest strengths of his team.

"We have a lot of great senior leadership, and I really hope we can give them a final season to be proud of," O'Neil said. "I expect a lot of production from the older guys and the younger players to fill in the blanks. My goal is to be a hard out all season."

But it's not just the seniors who have shown good leadership qualities.

"Our strength that jumps off the page is our leadership," O'Neil said. "And that goes for everybody, old guys and young guys alike. They're doing a great job of keeping each other accountable every day at practice."

The group of returning seniors includes Noah Morgan (first base/pitcher), Cass Stanberry (second base/pitcher/center field), Norm Bos (catcher/third base), Noah Deboer (centerfield/pitcher) Jaxson Green (outfield) and Anders Peterson (outfield).

Sam Bos (second base/pitcher) and Morgan Davis (left field/pitcher) are the returning juniors.

Sophomores Holden Burd (pitcher/shortstop), Gradon Gross (first base/pitcher), Oliver Hosie (infield/pitcher), Braison Jones middle infield/pitcher), Evan Kothman (infield/pitcher), Kevin VanDam (right field) and Soren Peterson (second base/pitcher) also return.

"Team goals this year are as follows: get better every day as new coach who is new to the area and to install a winning and lasting culture that develops young men to be students, contributing community members and quality teammates."

That part about being good teammates will be critical for the team's success, according to O'Neil.

"Good teams have good teammates," he said. "We hope to be coming together as a group and have our roles clearly defined right about the time the postseason comes around."

Freshman third baseman/catcher Nolan LaLonde is among the team's newcomers.

"Nolan will be a difference maker for us right away," O'Neil said. "He can play defense, he has pop in his bat and he's a natural-born leader."

WAYLAND

Wayland coach Drew Lakatos lost six players to graduation off last year's district-winning team.

Those losses were expected. A couple of others weren't.

Tommy Corneillie, the starter at shortstop as a junior a year ago, is in Fairbanks, Alaska, finishing his high school career after signing to play hockey at Western Michigan University.

And senior Trent Sikkema, a three-year starter behind the plate, is unable to throw due to a shoulder injury.

"You cannot replace experience like that right away," Lakatos said of Sikkema.

Sikkema, a threat at the plate, is able to swing a bat and will be the team's DH.

Returning senior Carter Decker—who was recently cleared after having ACL surgery last season, is penciled in behind the plate.

Senior outfielder Jackson Battenfield also returns, as do juniors Brenden Byrne (outfield) and Zaphan Shafer (infield).

Five sophomores also return: Easton Williams (shortstop/third base/pitcher), Hoyt Borgic (outfield/pitcher), Gerrit Van Lonkhyzen (middle infield/pitcher), Ty Ford (first base/pitcher) and Jackson Ritsema (outfield).

"They all will have some time on the mound and are expected to be mainstays," Lakatos said of the returning sophomores.

The Wildcats will face a pair of those ranked teams at the Don Klass Invitational in suburban Detroit.

"We were asked to be the Western Michigan representative at the Don Klass and we'll be playing three games that day, with two of those games against top-five preseason teams," Lakatos said. "It was an honor to be asked and we will be thrown in the first right away."

Freshmen newcomers Logan Atwell (catcher/utility), Gavin Mulder (catcher/first base), Will Lodenstein (pitcher/third base) and Logan Byrne (outfield) will had depth for the Wildcats.

"We're excited about the new season," Lakatos said. "For us to be successful, our young players will need to grow up in a hurry and I believe we should be better as the season unfolds."

NOTE: *No preview information was received from Plainwell prior to deadline.*

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Girls soccer ■ from Page B1

OTSEGO

It's Sister Act 2 for Otsego this season.

After having five sets of sisters in the program (varsity and JV combined) last year, the Bulldogs have 11 sisters in the program this season.

"I think that's pretty unique and helps with our continuity and family-like atmosphere," Otsego coach Levi Butcher said of the sisters in the program. "This group gets along better than any I have seen in my time at Otsego, and they have the talent needed to have a great season."

Several of those sisters will compete together at the varsity level, including Haylee (senior forward) and Peyton (sophomore forward/midfielder) Dennany; Olivia (senior midfielder) and Sydney (sophomore midfielder) Timmons; and Grace (senior midfielder/forward) and Ruby (sophomore midfielder) Gerst.

Other players joining those six on the roster include: seniors Reagen Engbers (forward), Layla Mejeur (midfield/forward), Lexi Gross (defense), Abbygale Graves (defense) and Abby Goodrich (defense); juniors Allie Proctor (midfield/forward) and Zoe Alkire (keeper); sophomores Maddie Ragan (defense), Addi Pfefferman (defense), Kara Moore (midfield/forward), Peyton Johnson (forward) and Alivia Kuiper (midfield); and freshman Olivia Witteveen (forward).

Alayna Eldred (20) is Plainwell's top returning scorer. (File photo)

It's a group Butcher hopes can improve on the third-place finish the Bulldogs have had in the Wolverine Conference the past two seasons.

"Bringing home a conference title for the first time since 2018 is a huge goal for us," said Butcher, whose team went 15-5 last year. "We made a good run in districts last spring, before losing to Gull Lake (1-0) in the final. We are in basically the same district again this season, and we think we have the team to make a run at that trophy as well.

"Last year, we had a lot of talent, but we relied heavily on our first-year players. That lack of experience was evident in some big moments, and it cost us a few games. This year, with everyone back and having another year under their belt, we know the time is now."

Plainwell and Vicksburg are the other teams to beat in the league, Butcher believes.

"We are experienced and talented all over the field, as well as having a ton of depth in key positions," Butcher said. "We still have a lot to prove, but we are pretty positive about our ability to keep the ball and create chances.

"The backline should keep us in games, even if we aren't finishing well on any given night. Zoe Alkire in goal has come a long way as well."

PLAINWELL

After posting a 15-3-1 record that included a perfect 7-0 mark in the Wolverine Conference last season, Plainwell hopes for similar results this season.

Not that doing so will be easy.

"This is kind of a rebuilding year," longtime Plainwell coach Garry Snyder said. "We lost some really good players to graduation. But we also have some really good players back, so we'll be competitive."

When it comes to the Wolverine Conference, Snyder is eyeing another league title. But …

"We look to be contenders for the conference championship, but it might take a lot more work to achieve that goal compared to past years," he said.

Junior forward Alayna Eldred is the top returning goal scorer for the Trojans and will be asked to help lead the offensive charge.

Also returning are seniors Avari Merica (midfield) and Ava Meyers (forward); juniors Lily Hendershott (defense), Shea Hodapp (forward), Olivia Ranger (keeper); Anna Schierbeek (midfield/forward), Emma Taylor (midfield/forward) and Alyssa Weldon (midfield); and sophomore midfielder Caitlyn Ridgeway.

"We return some solid defenders in Anna Schierbeek and Lily Hendershott," Snyder said. "Alayna Eldred will led the offense, while Caitlyn Ridgeway, Alyssa Weldon and Avari Merica will provide solid play in the midfield."

Newcomers rounding out the roster are: juniors Sophia Peterson (midfield) and Harper Johnson (keeper); sophomores Aubrie Witt (midfield), Sarah Launt (midfield) and Teighlor Nooney (midfield); and freshmen Emma Rayman (midfield), Allison Taylor (defense) and Lucy Benson (forward).

SAUGATUCK

Pretty impressive.

That's how second-year Saugatuck girls soccer coach Jim Theis described the current state of the program.

"The varsity team is coming off back-to-back conference championships," said Theis, who coached for a number of years at the Premier level in the Michigan State Premier Soccer Association before coming to Saugatuck. "But it's more than that.

"We also have a solid junior varsity team and an equally solid middle school program. So, the future continues to be bright."

Just how bright this season is will, according to Theis, be determined by how healthy his team can get and stay.

"We're entering with a number of offseason injuries that may affect us," he said. "We, of course, would love to repeat as conference champions for a third year in a row. If things work out, our goal is to get deeper into the playoffs after coming so close last year."

Junior Neave Rewa, who recently won a state championship in skiing, is back to anchor the offense. Rewa is already holds the school record for wins.

Senior Kennedy Gustafson will once again lead the defense as goalie when she is cleared to play. She suffered a facial injury in basketball that prevented her from playing during the postseason.

The return of several defenders will help Gustafson and the Trailblazers. Those returning defenders are seniors Sage Larsen and Anne Molenhouse along with juniors Estelle McParlan and Audrey Rodewald.

Saugatuck's Sage Larsen prepares for a throw-in. (File photo)

Newcomers on defense include senior Anne Molenhouse; juniors Kailee Sisson and Kielee Sisson; and sophomore Lily Hass.

"I think our defense is still pretty solid although only one starter remains from last year," Theis said.

Other returning players are senior midfielders Charlotte Gardner, Mallory Hass and Ava Tringali, junior forward Elley Panepento and junior midfielder Avery Smith.

"Losing perennial All-Conference scorer Jen Schock and forward CeCe Adkins means the younger players are going to have to step up," Theis said.

Among the younger players who could help out offensively are sophomore forward Mariela Garcia and freshman forward Audrie Sisson.

Other newcomers are senior forward Emma Jimenez, junior goalie/midfielder Julia Lowery and junior forward Jordan Sanders.

"I'm cautiously optimistic that we'll be (in contention for another conference title) at the end of the season," Theis said.

NOTE: *No preview information was received from Wayland prior to deadline.*

Ford helps lift Hopkins baseball to victory over Plainwell

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOPKINS—On Friday, March 28, the Hopkins baseball team hosted Plainwell in the season-opening contest for both teams.

Hopkins junior Kellen Ford looked like he was already in mid-season form.

At the plate, Ford went 2-for-4 with a double, three RBI and two runs. On the mound, he allowed two runs—both unearned—on one hit and struck out 10 in four innings of work.

That performance helped propel the Vikings to the 8-6 victory over the Trojans.

Trenton Smith (2-for-with a run and an RBI) and Christian Smigiel (2-for-4 with a run and two RBI) joined Ford with multiple hits. Smith also pitched the final three innings, allowing four runs—one earned—on three this with five strikeouts.

Plainwell took a quick 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning and held that lead until the bottom of the fourth when Hopkins scored four times. The Vikings added two runs in both the fourth and sixth innings.

Trailing 8-3 entering the top of the seventh inning, Plainwell rallied for three runs to narrow the gap to a pair of runs. But the Trojans would get no closer.

Urijah Davis, Andrew Hampton and Brayden Riley each had one hit for Plainwell.

"It's tough to gauge too much on the first game of the year, but we need to swing the bats better and make the routine plays in the field," Plainwell coach Chris Taylor said. "I thought we pitched pretty well overall. And we showed some fight in the top of the seventh."

Soccer results

Saugatuck 8 Hartford 0

The Saugatuck girls soccer team hosted Hartford for a season-opening match that turned out to be more of a mismatch.

Behind the offensive force that is Neave Rewa, the Trailblazers cruised to the 8-0 victory.

Rewa scored five times for Saugatuck, which led 3-0 at halftime before ending the game via the mercy rule with five second-half goals.

Mallory Hass, Ava Tringali and Alina Martinson each scored one goal, with Tringali and Martinson also picking up assists.

Fennville 8
Bloomingdale 0

It was quite the strong start to the season for Fennville's Nadia Perez.

With the Blackhawks taking on Bloomingdale on Tuesday, March 19, Perez scored four goals and assisted on two others to lead Fennville to the 8-0 win.

The game as stopped early due to the mercy rule.

Christina Mendoza added two goals and an assist, while Mayling Mendoza-Huynh had a goal and an assist. Isis Diaz accounted for the remaining goal.

Abby Gonzalez was credited with the shutout.

Plainwell 2 Lakeview 5

Alayna Eldred and Ava Meyer each scored for Plainwell in its non-league contest against Battle Creek Lakeview on Tuesday, March 18.

That, however, wasn't enough to propel the Trojans to the win, as Lakeview earned the 5-2 victory.

Caitlyn Ridgeway had an assist for Plainwell.

Fennville baseball falls

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—The Fennville baseball team fell behind 4-0 in its season-opening game against Bangor on Thursday, March 21, and never fully recovered in suffering the 8-3 loss.

Ely Schut started on the mound for the Blackhawks and struck out 10 in five innings. He allowed seven runs—six earned—on seven hits and two walks.

Bayden Wagner pitched the final two frames and allowed one run with three strikeouts.

Offensively, Dereck Arenado led the charge in the loss, going for a single, a double and an RBI.

"We stumbled in the early innings, but got stronger as the game went on," first-year Fennville coach Michael Cochran said. "Bangor's pitcher was very solid and it took us a few innings to get acclimated."

Hamilton tennis wins two matches

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

DEWITT—It was a strong start to the season for the Hamilton girls tennis team.

Competing at an indoor quad in DeWitt, the Hawkeyes bested Grant and Reeths-Puffer by identical 8-0 scores.

Going 2-0 for Hamilton were: No. 1 singles Isabelle Troost; No. 2 singles Erin Meiste; No. 3 singles Maya Wettlaufer; No. 4 singles Kylie Rietema; No. 1 doubles Danielle Wedeven/Drew VanHouten; No. 2 doubles Abigail Atwood/Brynn Bolhuis; No. 3 doubles Sophia Jorba Martinez/Allison Lezman; and No. 4 doubles Maddie Jipping/Taylor Heer.

Hamilton dominated in the Grant match, losing just four total games as a team.

The Reeths-Puffer match was a bit closer, particularly at No. 4 singles where Rietema survived for a 1-4, 4-0, 11-9 victory.

Dennany sisters lead Otsego girls soccer past Allegan

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—It was a good night for the Dennany sisters when the Otsego girls soccer team hosted Allegan on Monday, March 24.

Senior Haylee and sophomore Peyton Dennany each had one goal and one assist to lead the Bulldogs to the 3-0 win.

Otsego improved to 3-0 with the victory. The game was the first of the season for Allegan.

"I'm really proud of the performance our girls put on tonight," Otsego coach Levi Butcher said. "They did a good job controlling the tempo of the game from wire to wire, keeping their composure in some tough moments and burying some nice chances."

Alivia Kuiper started the scoring for Otsego, as she converted on a header off an assist from Peyton Dennany in the 24th minute

Less than a minute into the second half, Haylee Dennany set up Peyton Dennany for a goal. Haylee Dennany completed the scoring on a deflection off an Allegan defender in the 70th minute.

Zoe Alkire recorded the shutout in goal, finishing with two saves.

"Our back line did well to kill off a few promising counterattacks on the night and help Zoe record her first clean sheet of the young season," Butcher said. "We had controlled the majority of both our games to this point, but had given up a late goal in each of them to spoil our shutout.

"This was a good step forward, and hopefully the first of many shutout victories to come."

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Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

Some school districts are considering bringing handwriting, or cursive, classes to an end. They believe that with more and more people using computers and texting that it is no longer essential. Other schools claim that with all the state and federal mandates, there is no longer time or money to teach this subject. This week's question: Your thoughts: Should schools abandon teaching penmanship?

-Man at a farm stand on M-89: "What crackpot came up with that idea? When calculators came out, they said no one would need to learn math anymore. They sure got proven wrong. Same thing applies to writing."

-Another man, same location: "Well, there's another new dumb idea."

-Woman near the Fennville hardware store: Snorts in derision. "I think it's because the teachers don't want to teach it. The kids hate it and push back, and then their parents complain, so the school board gets scared, and I guess it's just easier to stop teaching it."

-Young man, same location, "I guess it's all right. I had to learn it, but I don't think I ever use it anymore."

-Friend with him: "You sign your name, don't you? How is anyone going to do that if they don't know how to write?" The young man shrugged his shoulders and pushed his fists deeper into his pants pockets.

-Young woman near the Allegan Public Library: "We had to learn it in elementary school, but I never write anything now. I'm a waitress, and we use a tablet to take orders and it gets sent straight to the kitchen. It's a lot less work."

-Older woman, same location: "I disagree with that young lady. Learning cursive writing is important. Learning it can be really hard, but it teaches discipline. It also helps children develop fine motor skills they'll need later on."

-Man near the Allegan Post Office: "I used to have really good penmanship, but not so much now. I guess it's because I just don't use it or practice writing." Woman with him: "So, that's your excuse for not writing love notes anymore?"

-Man near Minnie's: "My doctor, he's got horrible handwriting. It's just a scrawl. It worries me that the druggist can tell what he's supposed to give me, so I explain it to him."

-Friend with him: "I can do you one better. For her birthday I sent my granddaughter fifty bucks. Fifty! You know what I got back from her? A tweet or a text message, whatever it's called now! Three letters: THX. That's it. It's supposed to mean 'thank you.' Big deal. And she didn't even sign her name. That really burned me. And don't tell me it's better than nothing, 'cause it isn't."

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Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

March 27, 1950

Fruit growers back at work: Allegan County fruit growers were back from vacation trips today, ready to start work on the 1950 crop with what A.D. Morely, county agent, called a "clean slate."

Fruit growers are not faced with a big part of last year's crop in storage, Morley said, "they get a new deal and all efforts should be made to produce a quality product as economically as possible."

Spraying calendar supplements have been mailed out and two area radio stations will start broadcasting spray information this week. WKZO, Kalamazoo, starting today, will have broadcasts at 6:45 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. WHFB, Benton Harbor, will broadcast information at 12:45 p.m. on these same days.

March 27, 1975

Moscow viewed, photographed: A former Allegan woman now living in Moscow, Russia, photographed a modern art exhibit in Moscow for journalists Douglas Davis and Aldred Friendly Jr., and one of her shots appeared in the art section of Newsweek March 3.

Using the professional name Lee Johnson, the former Carol Lee Franz, daughter of Ralph Franz of Allegan, is living in Moscow with her American diplomat husband Darryl Johnson and their daughter, Darawan, and twin sons, Gren and Lauren.

In a letter last November, Mrs. Johnson told her father she was in the unique position of being the sole American to have a dark room and that she was "drumming up business in photography."

The story that appeared in Newsweek entitled "Rebels in the USSR," deals with the first art exhibit allowed by a group of 20 Moscow artists, 17 of them known as semi-abstract "modernists" who oppose the accepted canons of socialist realism.

The exhibit, according to the story, occurred in a tiny bee-keeping pavilion on the edge of a sprawling Moscow fairground and on opening day was jammed with crowds lined out into the street.

Darryl Johnson and his wife, Carol Lee Franz Johnson, with their children, (left to right), Darawan, Greg, and Lauren.

Deputy Morgan Sullivan, left, talks with an Allegan High School student. Sullivan was recently certified to teach safety in schools. (Photo provided)

March 30, 2000

Sullivan certified to teach safety: Deputy Morgan Sullivan of the Allegan County Sheriff Department was among the graduates honored in a special ceremony recently.

Sullivan was among 32 state, county and local police officers who received certification to teach personal safety lessons in schools.

The officers are graduates of the Teaching, Educating and Mentoring School Liaison Project developed by the Michigan State Police Prevention Services Section. TEAM is a proactive effort to make schools and communities safer by promoting an understanding of social rules, the consequences of unlawful behavior and students' responsibilities as good citizens.

The program was introduced by the State Police in July 1998.

TEAM training allows officers to teach at any of the three levels of education—those being elementary, middle or high school.

The elementary school curriculum teaches students basic safety rules such as bicycle and pedestrian safety and proper use of 911.

March 26, 2020

Home schools: helping with food, online learning: Since public schools closed March 16 to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, district employees have rallied for their students—all while still avoiding meeting in groups in person.

First came food needs. More than half of the state's 1.5 million public-school students received free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch while at school.

So districts scrambled over that first weekend to marshal a food distribution system that could feed youth in the community, since enrollment was not made a requirement.

Allegan has families swinging by a drive-up service at Allegan High School on Mondays and Fridays to provide food for the five weekdays. Staff and volunteers were also delivering food to families who couldn't arrange transportation.

The school also hosted a food drive to collect food for strained local pantries.

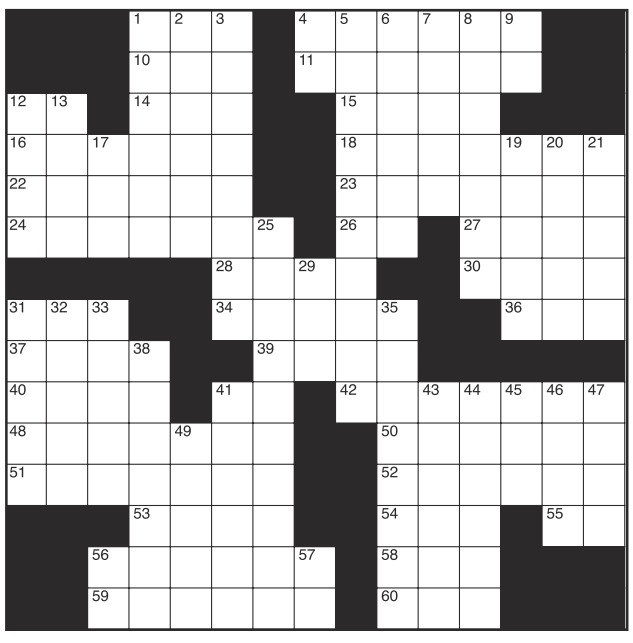
Otsego estimates it distributed more than 12,500 meals—enough for breakfast and lunch for the full seven days—at 11 pickup locations throughout the district, also timed on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Wayland distributes at four locations on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and is so far providing seven days of breakfast and lunch for approximately 500 youth.

Plainwell served over 1,000 breakfasts and lunches at its five pickup locations, similarly providing weekend meals. It started the week offering daily pickups but by Thursday trimmed pickup days back to just Tuesdays and Thursdays.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. State in southwestern India
4. Pashto
10. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
11. Supervised release from prison
12. Greeting
14. Type of drug
15. __ Sagan, astronomer
16. Every year
18. Nasal cavities
22. Nova __, province
23. In an inactive way
24. Cream-colored root
26. Nervous system disease
27. Guitarist Clapton
28. Three came to see Baby Jesus
30. Lebowski's nickname
31. Play a role
34. Not fresh
36. Where golfers begin
37. Negatives
39. Wild goat
40. Releasing hormone
41. Makes up
42. Fastens
48. Exists in large numbers
50. A connecting word
51. A phase of the heartbeat
52. Northern Ireland county
53. An independent ruler or chieftain
54. Pacific sea bream
55. Commercial
56. Azure
58. Doctor of Education
59. Protected oneself against loss
60. Car mechanics group

CLUES DOWN
1. Pastes for filling crevices
2. Acquire
3. Heralds
4. News group
5. Exact copies
6. Particles
7. Noted 20th C. performer Lena
8. Tempted
9. Midway between north and east
12. Slotted, hinged metal plate
13. South American hummingbird
17. Neither
19. Walk with confidence
20. Omit when speaking
21. Imperial Chinese currency
25. A bakery specializing in French pastry
29. Talk incessantly
31. Ethnic group of Nigeria
32. Longtime NY Times film critic
33. Beginners
35. Makes a trade
38. Sleep
41. Not moving
43. Popular drink: Pina __
44. Potential benefits
45. A place you can get stuck in
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Chalcedony
49. Rover
56. Digraph
57. Investment vehicle

Deaths

Feb. 25, 2025
ROBERT RAYMOND HOADLEY, 74, Douglas

March 3, 3035
VERA ELLEN KIRBY, 85, Wayland Twp.

March 6, 2025
BETSY JANE GOOD, 73, Allegan Twp.
DIANA LORENE MCLAUGHLIN, 66, Allegan Twp.

March 7, 2025
MARY FEDAK, 102, Douglas

March 9, 2025
JOHN JOSEPH ONG, 68, Dorr Twp.
SCOTT WILSON WILLIAMS, 71, Saugatuck Twp.

March 10, 2025
KAROLE LYNN MCKINLEY, 84, Heath Twp.
ROBERT CHARLES WARD, 69, Dorr Twp.
GAYLEEN ROLLINS, 76, Gun Plain Twp.
GLORIA FAYE LOHMAN, 81, Manlius Twp.

March 11, 2025
GLORIA BETH VANVELS, 74, Overisel TWp.

March 12, 2025
CLIFFORD MURPHY, 77, Lee Twp.
LESLIE A HARRISON, 75, Valley Twp.

March 13, 2025
GREGORY LEE PARKER, 59, Gun Plain Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between March 11 and March 19:

CAMELIA ROSE JARVIS, Otsego, and **HEATHER ANDREA DURHAM**, Otsego
ANTHONY NICHOLAS ALVARADO SR, Fennville, and **ROSA CANDELARIA RIVERA RODRIGUEZ**, Fennville
KATHERAN JOY SEBRIGHT, Wayland, and **MARK ALEXANDER WESTRATE**, Wayland
SERGIO SAID ALMARAZ, Fennville, and **ROSA ONEIRA SEGOVIA**, Fennville
ANDREW WILLIAM JONES, Otsego, and **BRITTANY K WICKS**, Otsego
MICHAEL JASON HARTWICK, Allegan, and **KIMBERLY HOSOOK MITCHELL**, Lansing
CONNOR CHARLES ROBACH, GLENDALE, WI, and **ELIZEBETH GRACE NICHOLS**, GLENDALE, WI

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SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

3	8						6	9
	6					4		
5								1
	5			7		9	8	
			2				7	
9		6		1		3		
6	3			4	1			
			9					
	9				7			4

(See Solution Page B7)

Public Notices

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FORFEIT AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY

BRADLEY BASTOW (formerly of 6990 114th Ave. in South Haven):

The state of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, herewith provides notice that it intends to dispose of certain personal property that was seized on May 12, 2017, in the course of investigating a complaint filed with the Bureau of Professional Licensing (Complaint No. 51-XX-146276). If you believe you have a claim to said property, please reply in writing to:

Lorne Carignan
Bureau of Professional Licensing
611 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, Michigan 48909
1-23 3-27

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, Michigan, starting promptly at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon on Thursday, the 17th day of April, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The mortgage was made by DAY MOON ENTERPRISES, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company ("Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated December 15, 2017, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Allegan County, Michigan on January 19, 2018, in Liber 4215, Page 227, as amended by an Amendment to Mortgage dated September 19, 2018, and recorded in the office of the Register od Deeds for Allegan County, Michigan on September 25, 2018, in Liber 4285, Page 142 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.

As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Seven Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Three and 72/100 Dollars ($769,433.72). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.

The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Township of Ganges, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:

Parcel 1: Beginning on the North and South 1/4 line of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan, at a point 103.00 feet North 00 degrees 06 minutes 00 seconds East of the South 1/4 post of the Section; thence North 00 degrees 06 minutes 00 seconds East on said 1/4 West 1/8 line in the Southeast 1/4, 1204.94 feet to the East and West 1/8 line; thence South 88 degrees 58 minutes 27 seconds East on said 1/8 line 358.24 feet; thence South 00 degrees 04 minutes 29 seconds West 1308.36 feet to the South Section line; thence North 88 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds West on same 238.83 feet; thence North 00 degrees 06 minutes 00 seconds East 103.00 feet; thence North 88 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds West, 120.00 feet to the place of beginning.

Parcel 2: Beginning on the South line of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan, at a point 358.83 feet South 88 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds East of the South 1/4 post of the Section; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 29 seconds East 1308.36 feet to the East and West 1/8 line; thence South 88 degrees 58 minutes 27 seconds East on said 1/8 line, 150.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 04 minutes 29 seconds West parallel with the East line of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, 1308.53 feet to the South line of the Section; thence North 88 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds West on same, 150.00 feet to the place of beginning.

Parcel 3: The East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 and the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 20, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan, EXCEPT that part lying East of U.S. 31. And also that part of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 20 which lies Westerly of U.S. 31, EXCEPT that part of the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 20 being described as: Beginning on the East and West 1/8 line of the Southeast 1/4, Section 20 at a point 141.70 feet North 88 degrees 58 minutes 17 seconds West of the East line of the Section; thence North 88 degrees 58 minutes 17 seconds West on said 1/8 line, 516.54 feet; thence South 00 degrees 01 minute 30 seconds West 416.88 feet; thence South 89 degrees 58 minutes 17 seconds East, 317.58 feet to the center of Blue Star Highway; thence along the center of said highway on a curve to the left with a radius of 2292 feet to the far end of a chord that bears North 25 degrees 43 minutes 20 seconds East, a distance of 458.78 feet to the place of beginning, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan.

Parcel 4: Beginning on the South line of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan, at a point 508.83 feet South 88 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds East of the South 1/4 post of the Section; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 29 seconds East 1308.53 feet to the East and West 1/8 line; thence South 88 degrees 58 minutes 27 seconds East on said 1/8 line 150.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 04 minutes 29 seconds West on the East line of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4, 1308.71 feet to the South line of the Section; thence North 88 degrees 54 minutes 30 seconds West on same, 150.00 feet to the place of beginning.

Together with all fixtures, tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances belonging or in any way appertaining to the premises.

Commonly known as: 1630 Blue Star Highway, Fennville, Michigan 49408

P.P. 03-07-020-019-11 (Parcel 1); 03-07-020-019-12 (Parcel 2); 03-07-020-027-00 (Parcel 3) and #03-07-020-019-10 (Parcel 4)

Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale. If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Dated: March 6, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Timothy Hillegonds
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
32036167
3-6 3-27

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on April 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Steven J Borst an unmarried man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lake Michigan Credit Union

Date of Mortgage: May 23, 2018

Date of Mortgage Recording: June 14, 2018

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $197,040.98

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Martin, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at a point on the West line of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 11 West, Martin Township, Allegan County, Michigan, 1894.07 feet North of the West 1/4 post of Section 20; thence North 125 feet, thence East 200 feet, thence South 125 feet; thence West 200 feet to the point of beginning

Common street address (if any): 1773 10th St, Martin, MI 49070-8711

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1554689
(03-06)(03-27)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on April 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Ashley N. Rogers, an unmarried woman, whose address is 219 4th Street, Plainwell, Michigan 49080, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, being a mortgage dated April 1, 2022, and recorded on April 4, 2022 in Liber 4746 Page 448, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated February 7, 2024 and recorded on February 7, 2024 in Liber 4919 Page 184, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND THIRTY AND 48/100 DOLLARS ($169,030.48). Said premises are situated in the Township of Gun Plain, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Part of the Southwest one-quarter of the Southwest one quarter of Section 26, Town 1 North, Range 11 West, Gun Plain Township, Allegan County, Michigan; commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 26; thence North 00 degrees 07 minutes 33 seconds West along the West line of Section 26, 412.50 feet to the Place of Beginning; thence continuing North 00 degrees 07 minutes 33 seconds West along said West line 198.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 59 minutes 47 seconds East 320.00 feet; thence South 00 degrees 07 minutes 33 seconds East 198.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 59 minutes 47 seconds West 320.00 feet to the West line of Section 26 and the Place of Beginning. Street Address: 219 4th Street, Plainwell, Michigan 49080 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: March 6, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6322
(03-06)(03-27)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 6, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1554689
(03-06)(03-27)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on APRIL 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Timothy A. Stevens and Tari Stevens, husband and wife, to Household Finance Corporation III, Mortgagee, dated November 26, 2002 and recorded January 3, 2003 in Liber 2366, Page 209 and Scrivener's Affidavit recorded on July 6, 2011, in Liber 3528, Page 660, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by J.P. Morgan Mortgage Acquisition Corp., by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Two and 92/100 Dollars ($185,582.92).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on APRIL 17, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of Dorr, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

The North 124.84 feet of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 17, Town 4 North, Range 12 West.

4245 21st Street, Dorr, Michigan 49323

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: March 6, 2025
File No. 25-002709
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(03-06)(03-27)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on APRIL 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Darcy Lloyd, an unmarried woman and Jackie Lloyd, an unmarried man, to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated April 1, 2010 and recorded April 13, 2010 in Liber 3410, Page 229 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Fifth Third Bank, National Association, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-Four and 12/100 Dollars ($75,984.12).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on APRIL 17, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of GANGES, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 9, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan, being described as: Beginning at the East 1/4 corner of said Section, thence North 01 degree 18 minutes 46 seconds West 327.48 feet along the East line of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 30 minutes 53 seconds West 529.64 feet; thence South 01 degree 24 minutes 14 seconds East 326.85 feet; thence South 89 degrees 26 minutes 42 seconds East 529.14 feet along the East and West 1/4 line of said Section to the Point of Beginning.

2110 66th St, Fennville, Michigan 49408

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: March 13, 2025
File No. 25-002042
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(03-13)(04-03)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on April 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Frank E. Blink II and Crystal Dawn Blink, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

Date of Mortgage: October 22, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 1, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $141,780.55

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 15 West, thence South 198 feet to the place of beginning, thence West 330 feet thence South 132 feet, thence East 330 feet, thence North 132 feet to the place of beginning.

Also commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 15 West, thence West 140 feet to the place of beginning, thence South 198 feet, thence West 190 feet, thence North 198 feet, thence East 190 feet to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 5616 118th Ave, Fennville, MI 49408-9556

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 13, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1555272
(03-13)(04-03)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Lisa M. Annunziata, a single woman

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York, as Trustee for the certificateholders of the CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-10

Date of Mortgage: June 11, 2007

Date of Mortgage Recording: June 19, 2007

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $123,500.89

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Dorr, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: The North 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 except railroad property, also except commencing 1327.76 feet South of the Northeast corner; thence South 75 feet; thence North 88 degrees 41 minutes 14 seconds West 234.01 feet; thence North 76.35 feet; thence East 233.26 feet to the point of beginning, also except commencing 1402.93 feet South of the Northeast corner of Section; thence South 66 feet; thence North 88 degrees 42 minutes 52 seconds West 234 feet; thence South 109 feet; thence North 88 degrees 42 minutes 52 seconds West 475 feet; thence North 44 degrees 06 minutes 38 seconds West 35.91 feet; thence North 225 feet; thence South 88 degrees 42 minutes 52 seconds East 500 feet; thence South 75.11 feet; thence South 88 degrees 52 minutes 52 seconds East 234.01 feet to the point of beginning, Section 21, Town 4 North, Range 12 West, Allegan County, Michigan.

Common street address (if any): 4142 18th St, Dorr, MI 49323-8008

The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 13, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1555441
(03-13)(04-03)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Zachary Kragness, a single man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Nationstar Mortgage LLC

Date of Mortgage: July 3, 2017

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 11, 2017

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $180,322.44

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Fennville, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 20, Landsburg's Plat, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 26, Allegan County Records

Common street address (if any): 5667 Landsburg Rd, Fennville, MI 49408-9479

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 13, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1555441
(03-13)(04-03)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Frank E. Blink II and Crystal Dawn Blink, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC

Date of Mortgage: October 22, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 1, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $141,780.55

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 15 West, thence South 198 feet to the place of beginning, thence West 330 feet thence South 132 feet, thence East 330 feet, thence North 132 feet to the place of beginning.

Also commencing at the Northeast corner of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 20, Town 2 North, Range 15 West, thence West 140 feet to the place of beginning, thence South 198 feet, thence West 190 feet, thence North 198 feet, thence East 190 feet to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 5616 118th Ave, Fennville, MI 49408-9556

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 13, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1555441
(03-13)(04-03)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY PROBATE
MOTION AND VERIFICATION
FOR ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO. 25-70103-CZ

Court address 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no. (269) 673-0300

Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails, Inc.
c/o Joel Baar (P56796)
3140 Red Mill Ave. SW, Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 965-2221
v

Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

The Estate of Naomi Virginia Powlin and

The Estate of Joan Sherry Podjan

In the matter of

1. Service of process upon The Estate of Naomi Virginia Powlin and The Estate of Joan Sherry Podjanas cannot reasonably be madeotherwise provided in MCR 2.105, as shown in the following verification of process server.

3. | request the court order service by alternate means.

I declare that the statements above are true to the best of my 7 knowledge, and belief.

2-28-2025
Joel Baar P56796
3140 Red Mill Ave SW
Grandville, MI 49418

VERIFICATION OF PROCESS SERVER

1. | have tried to serve process on this defendant as described: State date, place, and what occurred on each occasion.

The Defendants have been deceased for several years and no estates have been opened. In Case No. 24-68900-CA, Judge Antkoviak stated he would allow service by publication if/when a new lawsuit were to be filed.

I declare that the statements above are true to the best of my information, knowledge, and belief.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY PROBATE
SUMMONS
Hon. Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
CASE NO. 25-70103-CZ

Court address 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no. (269) 673-0300

Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

Sandy Pines Wilderness Trails, Inc.
c/o Joel Baar (P56796)
3140 Red Mill Ave. SW, Grandville, MI 49418
(616) 965-2221
v

Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

The Estate of Naomi Virginia Powlin and

The Estate of Joan Sherry Podjan

Civil Case

A civil action between these parties or other parties arising out of the transaction or occurrence alleged in the complaint has been previously filed in this court where it was given case number 24-68900-Cz and assigned to Judge Matthew Antkoviak.

The action is no longer pending.

SUMMONS|

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are notified:

1. You are being sued.

2. YOU HAVE 21 DAYS after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to file a written answer with the court and serve a copy on the other party or take other lawful action with the court (28 days if you were served by mail or you were served outside of Michigan).

3. If you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. -

4. If you require accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foreign Language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contract the court immediately to make arraingments.

Issue date: 02/13/25 Expiration date: 05/13/25

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY PROBATE
ORDER REGARDING
ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO. 25-70103-CZ

Court address 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010

Court telephone no. (269) 673-0300

Plaintiff name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

Sandy Pines wildemess Trails, Inc.
c/o Plaintiff's Attorney

Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.

Joel Baar (P56796)
Hannah M. Recknagel (P85758)
3140 Red Mill Ave. SW
Grandville, MI 49418
616-965-2221
v

Defendant name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

The Estate of Naomi Virginia Powlin and

The Estate of Joan Sherry Podjan

THE COURT FINDS:

1. Service of process upon the defendant, The Estate of Naomi Virginia Powlin and The Estate of Joan Sherry Podjan cannot reasonably be made as provided in ~~ MCR 2.105 MCR 2.107(B)(1)(b) and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

IT IS ORDERED:

2. Service of the summons and complaint ~~and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).

d. Other: Publication in the Herald Palladium (the local newspaper of both decedents) per MCR 2.106

3-20 4-3

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Todd A. Smith, a married man and Miranda M. Smith, his wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citibank, N.A., not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of New Residential Mortgage Loan Trust 2019-RPL3

Date of Mortgage: September 13, 2006

Date of Mortgage Recording: September 15, 2006

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $92,201.68

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Plainwell, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 122 and 123, Corporation Plat, being in Section 29, Town 1 North, Range 11 West, according to the Plat thereof recorded in liber 1 of Plats, Page 12 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Allegan County Records

Common street address (if any): 204 N Sherwood Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080-1429

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: March 20, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1556177
(03-20)(04-10)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Juan Marquez, a married man

Original Mortgagee: Lake Michigan Credit Union

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None

Date of Mortgage: November 14, 2018

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 20, 2018

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $20,847.76

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Commencing 40 rods North of the Southwest corner of the West 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 16, Town 2 North, Range 15 West; thence North 12 Rods; thence East 40 rods; thence South 12 rods; thence West 40 rods to the place of beginning.

Common street address (if any): NHN 55 th St, Fennville, MI 49408

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty,

Public Notices

Continued from Page B6

has been instituted to recover the debt secured by said Mortgage or any part thereof. Said premises are commonly known as 1139 146th Ave., Wayland, MI 49348, situated in Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as follows: THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE CITY OF LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, STATE OF MICHIGAN AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THAT PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 6, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, LEIGHTON TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTH 1/4 CORNER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST 1 013.66 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST 1/4 TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST 170.00 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 05 SECONDS WEST 386.50 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 58 MINUTES 08 SECONDS EAST 170.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 21 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 386.50 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. APN: 13-006-024-50 Notice is further given that the length of the redemption shall be six months from the date of sale. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. If the mortgaged premises is sold at a foreclosure sale under MCL Chapter 600, under section 3278, the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the mortgaged premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale for damaging the mortgaged premises during the redemption period. This Instrument Prepared By: Zachary D. Prendergast, Esq. Robbins Kelly Patterson & Tucker 312 Elm Street, Suite 2200 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Phone: (513) 721-3330 Fax: (513) 721-5001 E-Mail: zprendergast@rkpt.com

(03-20)(04-10)

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE SALE Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Kayla Picolet and Kayla Picolet to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Austin Capital Bank SSB dated June 14, 2019 and recorded June 20, 2019 in Liber 4354, Page 624, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by MidFirst Bank by assignment. In pursuance and by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure of Mortgage and Declaratory Relief entered for Plaintiff, MidFirst Bank against Defendant(s), Kayla Picolet in Case No. 24-68997-CH of Allegan County Circuit Court, the below premises shall be foreclosed and sold by public auction. Said Judgment of Foreclosure of Mortgage and Declaratory Relief was entered on the 10th day of February, 2025, wherein there is claimed to be due on said date the sum of One Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Twenty Dollars and Twenty-Six Cents ($136,020.26), which includes interest from at a rate of 6.75% plus sums advanced for taxes, insurance and other fees incurred and allowed by said mortgage. Under the Judgment of Foreclosure of Mortgage and Declaratory Relief and related statutes, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgage premises pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure of Mortgage and Declaratory Relief and that the sale shall be at public auction to the highest bidder, at public venue, at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, on the 15th day of May, 2025 at 9:00 AM, Eastern Standard Time, the following described property, viz: All certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Valley, County of Allegan and State of Michigan, described as follows: Lot 28 in Alpha Manor, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 6 of Plats, Page 39, Allegan County Records. Commonly Known As: 1751 Tom Nolan Rd, Allegan, MI, 49010 Tax ID: 22-100-028-00 This property may be redeemed during the six (6) months following the sale. Dated: March 17, 2025 Orlans Law Group PLLC /s/Sogol I. Plagany Attorney Name Attorneys for Plaintiff File No. 24-005784

(03-20)(04-24)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Laurie A. Maxam, an unmarried woman, whose address is 356 Washinton Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078, as original Mortgagors, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR AMERIFIRST FINANCIAL CORPORATION, being a mortgage dated August 31, 2021, and recorded on September 10, 2021 in Liber 4669 Page 478, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated October 2, 2023 and recorded on October 3, 2023 in Liber 4892 Page 57, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of ONE HUNDRED TEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED ELEVEN AND 89/100 DOLLARS ($110,911.89). Said premises are situated in the City of Ostego, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT 89, RAVEN'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE (NOW CITY) OF OTSEGO, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 61, ALLEGAN COUNTY RECORDS. Street Address: 356 Washinton Street, Otsego, Michigan 49078 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: March 20, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6364

(03-20)(04-10)

ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Trust
In the matter of the Edward L. Dovgin and Barbara C. Dovgin Joint Living Trust established February 18, 2013, restated December 30, 2022, and April 17, 2024

Edward Lenard Dovgin was the surviving grantor of the Trust and his date of birth was June 28, 1928.

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Edward Lenard Dovgin, died February 8, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to James A. Dovgin, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

P. Haans Mulder P61842
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1821
James A. Dovgin
W8569 White Crow Road
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
608-695-8389

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 a.m. on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Theresa Marie Smith aka Theresa M. Smith, a single person. Original Mortgagee: 21st Mortgage Corporation. Date of Mortgage: March 18, 2022. Date of Mortgage Recording: April 20, 2022 in Liber 4752, Page 424, Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said Mortgage encompasses all improvements, including a 1997 Four Seasons 16x80 manufactured home bearing serial number FH102293. Amount claimed due on date of notice: fifty-three thousand one hundred sixty-four and 06/100 Dollars ($53,164.06), including interest. Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Lee, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, to wit: Parcel "B" Description: Part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 23 minutes 58 seconds East 1309.34 feet along the East line of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 47 seconds West 220.04 feet along the South line of the North 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section to the Point of Beginning; thence North 89 degrees 56 minutes 47 seconds West 220.02 feet along said South line; thence North 00 degrees 26 minutes 11 seconds West 654.85 feet; thence South 89 degrees 55 minutes 24 seconds East 220.23 feet along the North line of the South 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 25 minutes 05 seconds East 654.76 feet to the Point of Beginning. Subject to and together with a 66 foot wide easement for ingress, egress, and utilities over part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 15 West, Lee Township, Allegan County, Michigan, the centerline of which is described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 23 minutes 58 seconds East 865.36 feet along the East line of said Section to the Point of Beginning of said centerline; thence North 83 degrees 47 minutes 30 seconds West 2668.37 feet to the Point of Ending of said centerline, Common street address: 5016 Fox Run, Grand Junction, Michigan 49056. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or upon the expiration of the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(c), whichever is later; or unless MCL 600.3240(16) applies. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. This sale may be rescinded or set aside by the foreclosing mortgagee. In such event, damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return or refund of the bid amount tendered at such sale, together with interest. Dated: March 21, 2025 21st Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee By: Richard A. Green Law Offices of Richard A. Green 30150 Telegraph Road, Ste. 444 Bingham Farms, MI 48025 (248) 924-2354

(03-27)(04-17)

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)

whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: Katheryn Ann Pauls has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on Tuesday, april 29, 2025 at 9:30am at FAMILY COURT COURTHOUSE before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater, to change the name of: Katheryn Ann Pauls to Katheryn Ann Morgan

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NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Kurt McKenzie to National City Bank dated October 3, 2003 and recorded November 13, 2003 in Liber 2590 at Page 132, Allegan County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by PNC Bank, National Association by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $65,120.94. Said premises are located in Allegan County, Michigan and are described as: Situated in the County of Allegan, Township of Gun Plain, State of Michigan, to-wit: Beginning at a point 420 feet North of the Southeast corner of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 23, Town 1 North, Range 11 West, thence North 125 feet, thence West at right angles 150 feet, thence South at right angles 125 feet, thence East to the place of beginning. Permanent Parcel Number: 03-08-023-009-00 Said property is commonly known as 552 4th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080. The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: March 20, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 19-21554

(03-27)(04-17)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Matter of the Donald J. Nicholas, Sr., and Ruth L. Nicholas Revocable Trust
Dated December 21, 2012
TO ALL CREDITORS:

Grantor, DONALD J. NICHOLAS, SR. (date of birth: April 25, 1935), who lived at 746 Bayberry Lane, Otsego, MI 49078, died December 25, 2024. There is no personal representative of the Grantor's estate to whom Letters of Authority have been issued.

Creditors of DONALD J. NICHOLAS, SR., deceased, are notified that all claims against DONALD J. NICHOLAS, SR. or the DONALD J. NICHOLAS, SR., AND RUTH L. NICHOLAS REVOCABLE TRUST DATED December 21, 2012, will be forever barred unless presented to JAMES D. NICHOLAS, Trustee, within four (4) months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust assets will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled thereto.

Date: March 19, 2025
DONALD J. NICHOLAS, SR., AND RUTH L. NICHOLAS REVOCABLE TRUST DATED DECEMBER 21, 2012
JAMES D. NICHOLAS, Trustee
977 Pinnacle Court
Plainwell, MI 49080
KREIS, ENDERLE, HUDGINS & BORSOS, P.C.
J. RYAN CONBOY (P58590)
Attorneys for Trustee
P.O. Box 4010
Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4010
269-324-3000

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 24-65181-DA and JUDGE Hon. Michael L. Buck
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Thomas B. Latchaw, Sr. Date of Birth:*XXX

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Thomas B. Latchaw, Sr., died February 27, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeremy R. Baier , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 221 Trowbridge Street, Suite C, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

3/21/25
Jeremy R. Baier
221 Trowbridge Street, Suite C
Allegan, MI 49010
(269)978-7663

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)

whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: RONALD FREDERICK PLEUNE, JR has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 AT 10:00 AM at FAMILY COURT COURTHOUSE before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater, to change the name of: RONALD FREDERICK PLEUNE, JR to RONAN ARTIST PLEUNE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, TRUST ESTATE

TO ALL CREDITORS:

The Settlor, Verna R DeWeerd (date of birth) 04/05/1942, who lived at 4285 52nd Street, Holland, Michigan, died February 13, 2025. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the February 13, 2025 February 13, 2025 Trust dated, February 13, 2025, as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to Kristi L Bulthuis Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

3-20-2025
Kristi L Bulthuis
1156 E 8th Street
Holland, MI 49423
616-886-8527

ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Trust
In the matter of the Cynthia Anne Baine De Maagd Declaration of Trust established October 18, 1996; restated June 19, 2018; amended December 21, 2021

Cynthia Anne Baine De Maagd was the grantor of the Trust and her date of birth was August 29, 1936.

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Cynthia Anne Baine De Maagd, died February 8, 2025.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to Christian Evans De Maagd, Trustee, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Jessica Arends P75919
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-1821
Christian Evans De Maagd
812 NE 127th Street
Seattle, WA 98125
206-458-8124

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 1, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): David Flores, married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: February 22, 2016

Date of Mortgage Recording: February 26, 2016

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $125,531.40

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Allegan, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Unit No. 10 Meadowview Estates Condominium, according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 2747 on Page 804 and amendments thereto (if any), and designated as Allegan County Condominium Subdivision Plan No.

211, together with rights in common elements as set forth in above Master Deed and as described in act 229 of public acts of 1963 and act 59 of public acts of 1978, and amendments thereto.

Common street address (if any): 1895 Edson # 10, Allegan, MI 49010-9249

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: March 27, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1556556
(03-27)(04-17)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on May 01, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Lebelle Russ f/k/a Lebelle Fitzpatrick, a married woman and James Russ, her husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: November 3, 2020 Recorded on November 10, 2020, Liber 4536, on Page 99, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Ten Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty-One and 30/100 Dollars ($110,981.30) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: BEGINNING AT THE EAST QUARTER POST OF SECTION 2, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 58 SECONDS WEST ON THE EAST AND WEST QUARTER LINE, 285.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 28 SECONDS WEST PARALLEL TO THE EAST SECTION LINE, 210.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST, 285.00 FEET TO THE EAST SECTION LINE; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 28 SECONDS EAST ON SAME, 210.00 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. Commonly known as 1106 26th St, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1557270
(03-27)(04-17)

CLASSIFIEDS

Misc.

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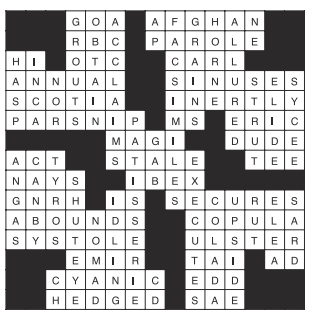

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RELIGION SECTION

Beginning at the 37th verse of the 7th chapter of St John's Gospel, we read the story of Jesus and his disciples at the temple in Jerusalem, and the controversy that constantly swirled around him. This time the temple authorities sent their own police (today, we would use the term, 'security detail') to arrest Jesus and bring him in for questioning. However, they returned to headquarters without the Lord and were chastised by the temple leadership for not obeying orders.

The police explained that they were confused by various statements being made by the crowd. Some said he was a prophet, some said he was a descendent of King David and had been born in nearby Bethlehem, and others said he was the Messiah. Rather than make matters worse for themselves and the senior officials by doing the wrong thing, they decided against doing anything.

Now, many of us have heard of FOMO or the Fear Of Missing Out. We want to be sure we keep up with serious news (politics and the economy) and the superfluous news such as Hollywood, fashion, the top songs on the charts, and so on. But have you heard of FOBO or Fear of Better Options?

FOBO is paralyzing because we do not want to commit ourselves to something for fear that a few minutes or the next day or the following week later we will find a better option. We do it all the time - maybe the next gas station will have cheaper gas so we drive further down the road, maybe the shirt on sale today will be discounted even more if I wait until tomorrow.

It appears that many times the people in our Lord's era were also doing it when they debated whether Jesus was the true Messiah. Sometimes they would directly ask him: Are you the Messiah or should we look for another?

Sometimes, we do it in our spiritual life, too, when we flirt with the idea of exploring other religions or even other traditions in Christianity. That is rarely a good thing.

Sooner or later, in almost every activity in life, we have to make a commitment. It might be in our relationships with other people; it could be our investments. And yes, it certainly it is true of our relationship with Jesus. To be a disciple of Jesus we have to make a leap of faith across the great abyss into the great unknown.

We worry whether we are making the right decision regarding doctrine. I understand that, but I also believe that an honest decision made with a loving heart, is what God desires of us more than indecision.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the
Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomingdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
Pastor Sheri Harris
10:30 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Pastor Alan Carson
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
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Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
10976 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal M.I. Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

Restoration Christian Community
Live service 10:00 am Sundays
RestorationChristianCommunity.org
Pastor Austin T Kreutz
269 567 8330

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UP UniPac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488

RAPA Rapa Electric, Inc. 1173 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 673-3155/673-3157

Waanders Concrete Co. Ready-Mix Concrete 3169 Babylon Rd., Allegan 673-6352

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